

NOVEMBER 27, 1995  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARIES

## U.N. members urge Israeli gesture on NPT

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The United States, France and Britain are quietly pressuring Israel to make a goodwill gesture on nuclear non-proliferation ahead of an international conference, diplomats said Wednesday. Washington and its European allies, concerned about Egyptian hesitation on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), have recently held talks with Israel, the sources said. Delegates from U.N. member states that have signed the treaty are laying the groundwork for the April 17 to May 12 talks here on the extension of the 25-year-old nuclear NPT. The extension now appears uncertain due to conditions posed by countries like Egypt, Mexico, Iran, Indonesia and Nigeria. While no one is expecting Israel to sign the treaty in the coming months, "making a gesture could allow Cairo to save face and sign the NPT extension," said one U.N. source. Israel could announce that it would open some of its nuclear installations to inspectors from the international atomic energy agency as one measure to build confidence, sources said.

Canadian regiment close after racist incidents

OTTAWA (AP) — Defence Minister David Peterson said Monday he was ordering the disbanding of the elite Canadian Ranger Regiment, following tapes showing its members making racist remarks in Somalia. They served as peacekeepers. The tapes also showed a incident in which forces forced to leave and entrenched head, Major in the Airborne — deserted the elite military — making references to niggers and the Airborne, a component of other Canadian units, has been kept secret every since it was due to take a new Canadian regiment of peacekeepers in April.

## Jordan opposition wants coordination with Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Jordanian groups opposed to the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel called for increased contacts with Damascus to "foil schemes aimed at weakening the Arabs," Syria's state-run agency SANA reported. Twelve delegations from seven leftist and Arab nationalist parties arrived here Tuesday on the first visit by a Jordanian opposition delegation to be announced publicly here.

They "hailed Syria for defending the interests of the Arab Nation and preserving its dignity" during the meetings with Syrian Vice-President Abdulla Halim Khaddam and ruling Baath Party Deputy Secretary General Abdulla Almarr. They expressed "support for the policy followed by Syria" and called for increasing contacts with the Baath to "coordinate efforts to foil schemes aimed at weakening the Arabs by imposing solutions favourable to Israel," SANA added. The delegation was invited by the National Progressive Front, the Baath party-led coalition ruling Syria.

## Tantawi ready to visit Jerusalem

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's mufti, the spiritual leader of the Sunni muslims, said Wednesday he would accept an Israeli invitation to visit Jerusalem, despite an Arab boycott of official contacts with the city's Israeli occupation authorities. Sheikh Mohammed Sayyid Tantawi said: "I will welcome any Israeli invitation to visit Jerusalem, since openness and face-to-face contacts are the best ways to gain our rights."

The mufti told the weekly Al Mursawar he had not received such an invitation, but he believed in the approach of former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat "who visited his enemy, going there in a position of strength and not weakness."

## FIS leader backs plan

PARIS (R) — A detained Algerian Muslim fundamentalist leader has backed an opposition plan to end three years of bloody civil strife while pledging to keep up the fight against the government. In a letter smuggled to the French daily Liberation from house arrest in Algeria and published on Wednesday, Ali Belhadj said the so-called Rome platform provided for "a just and legitimate solution of the crisis." The plan, calling for talks on a transitional government leading to democratic elections, was drawn up in Rome earlier this month by Algerian opposition parties that won nearly 85 per cent of the vote in an aborted general election, including Mr. Belhadj's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

## Moghribi to succeed Abourezk at ADC

AMMAN (J.T.) — After 15 years as chairman of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), former Senator James Abourezk has stepped down due to heavy scheduling demands in his South Dakota law practice, Mr. Abourezk will remain closely tied to ADC and will be honoured at ADC's annual convention.

## Former Philip Morris leader sets plan in family feud

MANILA (R) — Philip Morris President George Aziz will resume his daughter's pregnancy after her young woman dropped out to get her pregnant, a source said Tuesday. The source, who did not identify the man, mentioned on Ms. Aziz's appearance Monday at a television station, was quoted as saying.

## Ghali: No Iraqi move on oil

GENEVA (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said on Wednesday that Iraq had made no move towards limited oil sales despite an indication from Baghdad that it was willing to discuss such a move.

According to Iraqi press reports, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said in Baghdad last weekend that Iraq was ready to resume talks on exporting a limited quantity of oil for the purchase of food and humanitarian supplies.

Sanctions-hit Iraq would be authorised to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil under Security Council resolutions that would earmark 30 per cent of the proceeds, mostly for compensation payments to the victims of the Gulf war.

Asked about Mr. Aziz's comment, Dr. Ghali told reporters: "I have not received any official demand from the government of Baghdad dealing with the subject."

"Lifting the embargo is linked to the application by

the Security Council of

the relevant resolution,"

he said. "The Security Council has not yet done so."

Dr. Ghali was also asked whether he saw any flexibility in Security Council resolutions 706 and 712 of 1991, which dictate the terms of Iraqi oil-one-off oil sales. Iraq has rejected the resolutions as violating its sovereignty.

He replied that he was bound by the resolutions and added: "Even if we found a way of softening the rules of the game, this still has to be approved by the Security Council."

He added: "Even if I find an agreement for a partial lifting of sanctions with the government of Baghdad, it would still need the approval of the Security Council and the Security Council may refuse my agreements."

In Doha, Qatar, Spanish Defence Minister Julian Garcia Vargas said Wednesday he was in favour of maintaining the embargo on Iraq to make Baghdad comply with all U.N. Gulf war resolutions.

"The visit is very important as Iraq is on the verge of getting rid of the U.N. embargo," the head of the Iraqi Federation of Industries Adnan Al Kadissi told AFP.

Diplomats said meanwhile Iraq, awash with oil as a result of the sanctions, is offering diesel at giveaway prices to lure Turkish truckers carrying vital flour and sugar.

Iraq of all the resolutions taken by the Security Council after Baghdad invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Mr. Vargas, in Qatar on the last leg of an official tour of the Gulf, told the official agency QNA that Spain "fully respects the embargo."

Businessmen from 38 Italian companies are expected here in Iraq Friday for a four-day visit focusing on future cooperation and supplying Iraq with food and medicine, Iraqi officials said.

The delegation will be headed by the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce president, Sergio Marini.

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## Israeli ministers want to fence Palestinians in

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's answer to a wave of suicide bombings inside its territory could be electronic security fences creating new border lines for the occupied West Bank.

"This type of line, together with soldiers in the field and patrols along its length, should be effective," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said on Tuesday, calling for a permanent separation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal told army radio that a fence would probably be necessary in the heavily populated central border area between Israel and the West Bank. Police patrols and guard dogs could oversee other sections.

Suicide bombers from the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip killed 18 Israeli soldiers and a civilian in central Israel on Sunday, touching off a national debate on security.

Tough-sensitive barriers are already in place along Israel's frontiers with Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Gaza Strip.

The army said only a small section of the Gaza border area, from the Erez checkpoint in the north to the Mediterranean several kilometres away, has yet to be fenced off. Soldiers prevented a Reuter photographer on Tuesday from taking pictures in the unfenced area.

A dirt patrol road, swept and later checked carefully for footprints runs along the Israeli side of the chain-link and barbed-wire fences, which are about three metres high.

The Israeli army relies on the high-technology and mobile patrols from scattered outposts along the borders. With the exception of border crossings there are few watchtowers and searchlights reminiscent of the former iron curtain.

Sensors indicating the fences have been disturbed bring Israeli army patrols to the scene to intercept infiltrators.

Sarid told army radio. "But it will also be a demographic fence to divide us from them."

Nabil Shaath, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said in Gaza that separation was only acceptable as part of the creation of a Palestinian state, an idea which Israel officially opposes.

"In which case, you can have separation if you want to close borders when you want to — with some mutual equality," Dr. Shaath told reporters.

Separation now, Dr. Shaath said, "really means closure, which means siege and prison to the Palestinians."

Police Minister Shahal said he was prepared to deploy border guards and dogs on a demarcation line within eight months of a decision to implement a separation.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres voiced support for the idea, telling Israel Radio it "definitely appeals to me."

Mr. Rabin said he would establish a committee to draft proposals for separating the two populations.

"We want to achieve a separation between you and us," Mr. Rabin said, calling it a means of protecting Israelis — "98 per cent of whom live within Israel proper" — from guerrilla attack.

After Sunday's bombing, claimed by the militant Islamic Jihad group, the cabinet tightened a closure of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, preventing tens of thousands of Palestinians from reaching their jobs in Israel.

Israeli media reports speculated the border fence would keep Jewish settlements around Jerusalem outside Palestinian-ruled territory pending a final peace settlement.

Palestinians are furious at recent Israeli construction at settlements in occupied land near Jerusalem, which Israel views as its "undivided and eternal capital." Palestinians regard Arab East Jerusalem as capital of their own future state.

Separation was the main theme of Mr. Rabin's address to the nation on Monday night.

Mr. Rabin said on Tuesday: "We must get ready by preparing a programme which will surely take a month or two to prepare ... I don't want to go into technical details. A fence throughout is not a must."

"The fence will be for security, of course," Mr.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

THIRD JORDANIAN DRAMA FESTIVAL

★ Two plays (in Arabic) entitled "Seas in the Eyes" and "The Plague" respectively at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Thursday and respectively at 7:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Friday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

#### EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of abstract art by Mohammad Labidi at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of Children's works (from Haya Centre drawing and painting classes) at Goethe Institute.

★ Exhibition of works by Iraqi artist Fakhri Muhammad at the Ab'ad Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of "Arab Contemporary Art" at Mona Saudi studio, Abdoun village (Tel. 829700).

**SONY ZAKI GHUL SONY**

WELCOMES THE HONOURABLE GUESTS OF HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN & THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS CROWN PRINCE OF JAPAN NARUHITO & PRINCESS MASAKO AND WISHES THEM A VERY PLEASANT VISIT TO JORDAN

GHUL 618821

#### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Dipoldo  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:30 ..... N.B.A.  
20:30 ..... Plans in English  
21:10 ..... The Hat Squad  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:20 ..... Feature film: "Havana"  
23:57 ..... The Exile

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:09 ..... Fajr  
06:29 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:48 ..... Dhur  
14:42 ..... 'Asr  
17:05 ..... Maghrib  
18:27 ..... Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieqha, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 537785 St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590, Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637540. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terraconia Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 620543.

Latin Catholic Church Tel. 771351.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 652526.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Com-

munity Tel. 634105.

The Letter-Day School Tel. 654902.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 70 per cent, Aqaba 53 per cent.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Jum'a Abu Dihab ..... 758248

Dr. Bassim Qaddumi ..... 645833

Dr. Yousef Al Faqih ..... 756988

Fins pharmacy ..... 661912

Ferdous pharmacy ..... 773336

Al Asema pharmacy ..... 670755

Nairokhi pharmacy ..... 623672

Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

Tacoilo pharmacy ..... 644945

Smezzani pharmacy ..... 637690

Najib pharmacy ..... 647632

IRBD:

Dr. Fawaz Al Ozaifi ..... 248743

Alqudi pharmacy ..... (—)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will rise slightly with winds westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman ..... 4 / 13

Aqaba ..... 8 / 21

Deserts ..... 2 / 15

Jordan Valley ..... 7 / 20

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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590,

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637540. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraconia Church Tel. 622366

## Unions condemn Egyptian arrests

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian union on Wednesday condemned the arrest of dozens of labour leaders and mainstream Muslim activists, accused by the government of supporting Islamic militants.

Egypt's president warned the opposition to ease its criticism.

In a nationally televised speech, President Hosni Mubarak defended the government's handling of the three-year Islamic insurgency that has left more than 550 people dead. He described extremists' attacks on security forces as a "rabid campaign."

Human rights groups and opposition parties in recent months have objected to government tactics in dealing with Islamic militants, including mass arrests, curfews and house demolitions.

The confrontation has

been fiercest in southern Egypt.

Mr. Mubarak also warned opposition groups to stay in line.

"The honest opposition criticises and advises, but it does not fabricate and instigate," Mr. Mubarak said. "It is committed to the limits of legitimacy and does not cross them."

Referring to the arrests of government opponents, Mr. Mubarak said he was upset that "some elements, who we know are committed to democracy and realise the danger to the nation from these (extremist) groups, are participating in this unfair campaign."

The government, sensitive to criticism by Islamic groups, has cracked down hard on the opposition, arresting a well-known Islamic writer in December and

detaining 28 members of the mainstream Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest Islamic fundamentalist group.

The government has accused the Brotherhood, which is outlawed but tolerated, of links to more radical Islamic groups. The Brotherhood also has a strong presence in Egyptian unions.

The engineers syndicate said Wednesday that more than 100 engineers are now under arrest.

"It is amazing that the authorities' persecution of Islamists under the excuse of dealing with violence and terrorism has overstepped itself and reached the moderate leaders that have become the victims of the government's violence," it said.

The syndicate of scientific professions said Wednesday that 20 of its members were under arrest.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iran, Pakistan plan anti-drugs campaign

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran and its eastern neighbour, Pakistan, are to launch a three-year campaign against drug-smuggling across their common border, Tehran Radio reported.

Quoting an unidentified official of Iran's anti-narcotics agency, it said the two countries had signed an agreement to this effect after three days of talks held under U.N. auspices in Tehran. The officials said Iran and Pakistan will strengthen their security forces along their frontier, carry out joint operations against narcotics smugglers, and build an initial 42 border posts along smuggling routes with more to follow later. The radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the official as saying Iran intends to begin anti-drugs cooperation with the Central Asian republics in the future, but gave no details. Tehran already has an anti-narcotics agreement with neighbouring Turkey. The main narcotics routes into Iran are from Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Carbon monoxide kills couple in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — A British couple died of carbon monoxide poisoning in a tourist apartment in the north-western village of Latsi on this Mediterranean island, police reported.

The statement did not identify the couple, pending notification of their next of kin in Britain. It said a 38-year-old man and his 36-year-old wife were found dead in their flat early Tuesday. Police coroner Marios Matsakis said their bedroom apparently filled with carbon monoxide from a charcoal fire the couple had apparently lit during the night. The statement said the couple had arrived in Cyprus five days ago from Saudi Arabia, where they had been living, and had rented the apartment until holiday home they were building at Latsi was completed.

Relief groups pull backs due to Sudan fighting

NAIROBI (R) — Fighting between Sudanese government forces and southern rebels near the border town of Nimule has intensified in the past week, forcing relief agencies to relocate to north Uganda, the U.N. said on Tuesday. The U.N. Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) said in a statement that relief agencies temporarily moved some staff from Nimule, on the border between Sudan and Uganda, by road on Tuesday.

"Some agencies, including Catholic Relief Services and (Catholic) Diocese of Torit will leave skeleton staff in Nimule to continue relief activities pending further developments," OLS said. It said the decision to scale back was taken in Nimule on Tuesday following shelling in the village centre on Monday night which killed two civilians. "Since Jan. 15, there have been several reports of shelling in the Nimule area, including some near the hospital and airstrip. The village is currently held by the SPLA (Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army)," OLS said. It said the relocation had disrupted a meningitis vaccination campaign.

Russian bombing kills four, Kabul says

ISLAMABAD (R) — Russian jets based in the Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan bombed a northern Afghan border village, killing four people and wounding nine others, the official Kabul Radio said on Tuesday. Monday's raid on Maymay village in Badakhshan province's Darwaz district also destroyed five houses, said the broadcast monitored in Islamabad. Badakhshan borders with Tajikistan where Russia has deployed about 15,000 troops to help fight anti-government Islamic guerrillas suspected of having bases in Afghanistan. The raid was the fifth Kabul report of bombing on Afghan border areas by Russian planes since early December. At least 45 people were reportedly killed in previous air attacks on Badakhshan and adjoining Takhar province. Earlier this month, Afghan authorities protested to Russia and Tajikistan against the bombing and denied they were helping the Tajik rebels.

Turkish would-be bomber dies in blast

ANKARA (R) — A man trying to fix a bomb to a car in Istanbul died of wounds he suffered when the explosive went off prematurely, Istanbul Police said on Wednesday. The blast occurred at a car parked outside a para-military gendarmerie compound in suburban Istanbul on Tuesday night.

The man, who was found by gendarmes as he was crawling away from the car, died on the way to the hospital. Police said the man did not carry any identification and it was not yet known if he was linked to an extremist group.

Urban extremists of the Dev-Sol and militants of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party have carried out scores of bomb attacks in Istanbul in recent years.

### CORRECTION

An article published in the Jordan Times Tuesday, Jan. 24, about Jordan's first carpal tunnel surgery erroneously named Ziyad Akash as one of the two surgeons who conducted the operation. The item should have read Dr. Bassam Akash.

The survivors' first meal in nine days was a typical Turkish breakfast: tea, bread, butter and jam. "The little boy kept repeating, 'thank you,'" Mr. Gul said.

Temperatures have dipped under the freezing mark in the last few days, and daytime temperatures barely topped 0 degrees.

Col. Couillard, a graduate of the Air Force Academy in Colorado, had taken a 17-day air force combat survival training course, said an air force spokesman, Linda Leong.

The course includes instruction in building shelters and fires, obtaining food and water in the wilderness and navigation training.

Col. Couillard and Matthew, and another son, Mark, 13, went skiing on the 15th as part of a boy scouts outing

Two days ago, the colonel left Matthew in the cave, some five kilometres from the ski slopes and set out for help, skiing for 1½ hours before finding an unin

# Home News

## EC to establish tourism marketing fund to promote Mideast abroad

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — A marketing fund is to be established with the assistance of donor countries to promote the tourism sector of the Middle East region abroad, Minister of Tourism official Dr. Khatib said Wednesday.

"We need to promote the perception of the region worldwide, to develop an image of peace," said Ms. Khatib.

On the third and final day of a three-day Middle East-Europe tourism workshop, Ms. Khatib told the Jordan Times that to change negative perceptions of the Middle East, a promotional project needed to be launched.

The EC (European Commission) will take up the marketing fund and as a part of it, the EC will approach other donor nations to contribute," she said, adding that the fund will also be supported by the regional parties including their public and private sectors.

The workshop, held in Aqaba, was attended by government officials and tourism industry employees from Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), as well as tour operators from 10 European countries.

The initiative for the workshop was borne by the EC which sponsored it, and organised it in cooperation with the Jordanian government and the Ministry of Tourism.

In an address at the opening session, the head of the EC delegation in Amman, Yves Gazzo, reminded participants that this workshop originated from the action plan derived from the regional economic development working group meeting in Copenhagen in November 1993.

Mr. Gazzo underlined the need for comprehensive development of the tourism sector, including the public and private sectors. "Concerted action between the public and private sectors would be essential in order to make optimum use of existing and forthcoming resources," Mr. Gazzo recommended.

In his concluding remarks he said that tourism should play an important role in the building of the peace process. Tourism, Mr. Gazzo said, should complement a comprehensive strategy for the peace process.

## Lecture to explore new small business concept

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — A new concept to help develop women's small business enterprises will be the focus of a one-day lecture held Thursday entitled "industrial incubators" at the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

The idea behind this lecture, said Hind Abdul Jaber, president of the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC), an organiser of the lecture, is to discuss the possibility of having a group of women with small enterprises, benefit from working on industrialised machinery.

"Instead of having women purchase costly equipment for their small businesses, we will discuss the possibility of having groups of women benefiting from the same equipment," in one place — thus the term industrial incubators — Ms. Abdul Jaber told the Jordan Times.

According to Ms. Abdul Jaber, industrial incubators are successfully used in Europe and the United States, "and we will try to come up with a clear view of the possibilities of succeeding in Jordan."

"Our aim is to decrease poverty and unemployment among women, and we believe this programme will help accomplish our goals," Ms. Abdul Jaber added.

The lecture, which is also organised by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in coordination with the Economic

## Italian-Arab commerce group to help on joint projects

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The head of a delegation from the Italian-Arab Chamber of Commerce, Giorgio Marini told the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) Wednesday that the Italian chamber was ready to extend assistance to Jordan to help it conduct studies and prepare for projects that could be carried out in the Kingdom by the Italian and Jordanian business communities.

Speaking at a meeting with Federation Chairman Haidar Murad, Mr. Marini said the Italian chamber appreciates Jordan's endeavours to promote trade with Italy and to promote investment in various sectors.

He said that the Italian chamber hopes to extend technical assistance for form-

## IAF deputy, minister clash as lawmakers urge restraint

By Tareq Momani  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday witnessed a heated argument between Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Salam Al Abbadi during which harsh terms were exchanged.

Ms. Khatib said that the regional representatives had asked the EC for a down payment to start-up the project. The project, she explained, needs to be activated immediately in preparation for the next tourist season beginning in autumn.

A consensus was achieved regarding the standardisation of taxation applicable to tourists visiting the four countries, Ms. Khatib said.

It was also suggested the standardisation should envelope regulations on travel between the four destinations, services available and levels of hygiene, she said.

In reply, Dr. Abbadi said he had already answered similar questions put to him.

by House members, but that he could not provide an immediate reply to Sheikh Abu Zant's query because it would take a great deal of detailed work at the ministry.

He said, however, that the ministry is preparing a cadre with files about all details to provide the required replies to the House at a later date.

The minister questioned why the deputy was insisting that he provide the full names of preachers and asked whether Sheikh Abu Zant suspected that the Ministry of Awqaf was tampering with the names.

He also questioned whether Sheikh Abu Zant's query was part of a campaign he was leading against the Ministry of Awqaf which started in an earlier Parliament session dedicated to the debate on the budget.

In his reply to the minister,

ter's statement, Deputy Abu Zant used improper terms, accusing the minister of being ignorant of the basics of the Arabic language and lacking knowledge of his ministry's internal statutes.

House Speaker Saad Srour interfered in the dispute and ordered that the abusive language be completely struck from the record and appealed to the minister and the deputy to comply with the norms and rules of Parliament.

But Deputy Abu Zant continued his attack, stating that a minister should not suspect the questions put to him by a representative of the people.

He said it was the minister who had exceeded the norms by accusing a Parliament member of launching a hostile campaign against the Ministry of Awqaf.

Furthermore the deputy said that some of the

preachers who were appointed by the minister were imploring God to be merciful to the Jews — "the killers of all God's emissaries and prophets," according to the deputy.

Deputy Abu Zant was supported by another IAF member, Deputy Mohammad Oweida, who claimed that his colleague's improper terms were used in reply to the minister's "repugnant language."

A third deputy, Mohammad Daoudi, accused both the minister and the deputy of resorting to expletives and called for calm.

Abdullah Akaleh, another IAF deputy urged Sheikh Abu Zant to respect the House rules and avoid using abusive behaviour.

Later in the session, Finance Minister Basel Jarrahane replied to a question



Abdul Salam Al Abbadi

About Jordanian lands in the Bakoura and 1,350 dunums in Gharm will be leased to the Israelis for 25 years, but the Jordanian government was not receiving payment in return. After 25 years these lands will be returned to the Kingdom, said the minister.

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## Bomb blasts rock Dhaka

DHAKA (AFP) — Bomb blasts rocked Dhaka Wednesday on the second day of a nationwide strike called by the opposition, coinciding with a conference on international investment in Bangladesh.

The blasts, apparently caused by crude devices, were reported from near the forum's venue and the downtown areas of Motijheel and Mirpur. There were no immediate reports of any casualties.

Militant picketers marched through main streets shouting "Action, action, direct action" with riot police following them in trucks or on foot.

Schools, shops and businesses were shut and vehicles, except for pedicabs, stayed off the streets here and in the southeastern port city of Chittagong.

Tension was palpable on the road between Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's office and the Songargaon Hotel, the venue for the Euromoney International Investor's Conference. The meeting, which drew 700 participants, was in its final day Wednesday.

Security sources said reinforcements were deployed in the area Wednesday after a powerful homemade bomb was hurled Tuesday at Ms.

Zia's motorcade as she travelled from the conference to her office. The bomb did not hit any of the cars in the convoy.

The sources said eight suspects, including two women, were charged with carrying explosives or detained under the tough Special Powers Act of 1974, under which police can hold suspects for 120 days without filing specific charges.

"A probe has been ordered, as VIPs only move after complete security clearance," one source said.

Witnesses said those arrested were picked up at a procession of the main opposition group, the Awami League (AL).

Fifty people, including two senior AL leaders, were injured in police action and bomb blasts elsewhere after Tuesday's half-day general strike.

Ms. Zia's press secretary said the bomb attack was "not an attempt on the prime minister's life, but just a political stunt."

The premier left Dhaka Wednesday for a two-day trip to Sri Lanka in her capacity as the chairwoman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which also includes Bhutan, India, the



Police run for cover on Tuesday as smoke engulfs the area after a powerful home-made bomb burst as Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's motorcade passed during an opposition half-day anti-inflation general strike (AFP photo)

Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan.

Senior opposition figures denied that the timing of the strikes — the latest in a series called by the opposition — was aimed at sapping investors' confidence in Bangladesh, thus opening an economic front in their 10-month-old campaign.

The opposition has come under fire from the business community for calling the stoppages.

"Strikes are our political culture... Making investment does not depend on such culture," said Moudud Ahmad, a former Bangladeshi vice-president under the Jatiya Party (JP).

Tofael Ahmad, senior AL policymaker, added: "A

free-market economy depends on a stable political environment, which calls for a consensus between the government and opposition on common issues."

Police escorted ministers and guests to the venue of the conference.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the AL chief, said Tuesday's strike sought to protest against an unusual increase in the price of consumer goods ahead of the Muslim month of Ramadan, which starts in February.

The daytime fasts are often followed by night-time feasts, and much food is consumed during the month.

Wednesday's strike, she said, was to ensure citizens' voting rights.

## Rao acts against rival; opposition warns of split

Muslims refuse to support Congress

Meanwhile, Reuters reported that Muslims, who feel betrayed by India's ruling Congress Party, have vowed to take revenge during next month's five state assembly polls by switching crucial support to other parties.

The agency quoted analysts as saying feelings were running high in the nation's Muslim community, which totals about 120 million, two years after the Congress government failed to stop Hindu zealots demolishing a 400-year-old mosque.

The attack sparked off countrywide communal riots in which over 2,000 people were killed.

Muslims felt betrayed by the mosque's destruction, in spite of numerous assurances from the Congress Party the shrine would be adequately protected. Many Hindus believe that the Mosque stood on the birthplace of the god Ram.

Muslims were hardest-hit in the riots that followed. Many saw their homes and livelihoods destroyed, while others felt they were the victims of police brutality.

## Finns smoke least in Europe — study

HELSINKI (AFP) — Finns smoke less than the citizens of any other European country, according to a study by the Finnish Cancer Foundation published Wednesday.

The study showed that 27 per cent of men and 19 per cent of women in Finland smoke.

By comparison, the study showed that 42 per cent of men and 28 per cent of women smoked in the 12 countries that made up the European Union (EU) prior to Jan. 1, 1995. At least 35 per cent of men smoke in each of the 12 EU countries, while Portugal is the only country where women smoke less than in Finland. Women also smoke less in the 15 to 24 years age group.

"No one can stop the Congress from breaking up," said Murli Manohar Joshi, former president of the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party, the country's main opposition group.

"The Congress is now a divided house, heading towards a split," said Murli

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## Burmese army closes in on rebels

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea Wednesday proposed resuming inter-Korean talks, partially accepting a Pyongyang proposal for joint celebrations in August to mark the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule.

"We propose that the two sides hold talks among responsible authorities to discuss pending issues, including the joint celebration of the 50th Liberation Day," Vice Unification Minister Song Yong-Dae said in a statement.

A UN officer monitoring the situation said Burmese government troops were continuing a heavy artillery bombardment of Karen positions around their Manerplaw headquarters.

Burmese troops have crossed the Salween River. Manerplaw's last major line of defense to the west, and fighting was taking place along a ridge-line above the rebel headquarters, a senior guerrilla source said.

Government forces had also made significant advances from both the south and the north towards the Karen National Union (KNU) headquarters.

More than 2,000 civilians and wounded guerrillas have crossed the border river Moi to Thailand since last week when Burmese troops began what may be their final push on Manerplaw.

"The situation is getting bad. We have been forced to relocate a field hospital to the Thai side of the river," said a Karen guerrilla source.

The KNU, in a statement dated Tuesday, confirmed that the government troops had attacked and seized important positions around their headquarters.

"The military situation continues to become more tense ... in recent days the SLORC troops have occupied key positions along the Salween River," the KNU said, referring to the Rangoon Junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

## S. Korea proposes resuming Korean talks

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea Wednesday proposed resuming inter-Korean talks, partially accepting a Pyongyang proposal for joint celebrations in August to mark the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule.

"It's a firm policy for us that we don't accept the North's proposal for a national conference, which is based on a United Front plan," Mr. Song told journalists.

The Pyongyang proposal was a first since Kim Il-Sung died July 8, apparently from a heart attack.

His demise scuttled the first presidential talks between the two Koreas, and inter-Korean ties slid back to cold war animosity.

U.S. defends N. Korea pact

In Washington, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in his first testimony before the new Republican-led congress, Tuesday defended a landmark nuclear accord with North Korea and expressed confidence any cheating will be detected.

"The burden of upfront performance falls on North Korea, not the United States," he told the Senate foreign relations committee, adding that the agreement is structured so that "we are not disadvantaged in any significant way if (North Korea) reneges on its commitments at any time."

Mr. Christopher said implementation of the accord, signed with Pyongyang last Oct. 21, is proceeding smoothly but "we are confident about our ability to determine if the North is cheating."

Under the agreement, North Korea agreed to halt and eventually dismantle its nuclear programme in return for an estimated \$4.5 billion package of new nuclear technology and alternative energy supplies.

## Condom most popular item on S. Korean shopping list

SEOUL (AFP) — Koreans are taking advantage of the privacy offered by computer home-shopping networks to avoid the embarrassment of asking for condoms in public, a department store survey showed Wednesday. The survey by the Shinsegae Department store in Seoul from October through December found that a set of 120 condoms worth \$36 was the most popular item on South Korea's "home shopping" list made through computer networks.

"Computer home shopping is catching on here due to many convenient aspects," said a saleswoman at the communications sales division. She said the home shopping ensured anonymity in purchasing embarrassing products such as condoms and also provided convenient automatic settlements through customers' banking accounts.

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### Liberating potential is goal

IN HIS policy statement to Parliament yesterday, Prime Minister Zeid Ben Shaker said that his government sees "democracy as an irreversible way of life ... a way of liberating creative potential to achieve progress in all aspects of life." In that framework, the Prime Minister strongly indicated, his cabinet would now go ahead and give life to a centre for freedom, democracy and human rights, the idea of which was broached back in 1993 by His Majesty King Hussein and the government of then-Prime Minister Sharif Zeid himself.

We believe that the intended centre, once it assumes its responsibilities — and it is now for Parliament to make the centre's mandate both comprehensive and practical — would contribute positively to enhancing the concepts of freedom, democracy and human rights. Let us remember that concepts like decentralisation, the rule of law and free market economics are all devoid of meaning until human rights are respected, freedom is enshrined in all laws and democracy is fully adhered to in our daily practices.

Freedom, for example, requires minimum government intervention in people's lives. This unfortunately has not been the case in Jordan. Successive governments aided by Parliaments have always sought, and still do, to regulate people's lives and to interfere in every activity they do. Education, health and even a sizeable chunk of our trade have been either largely controlled by the public sector or totally regulated by it.

On the other hand, the relationship between soaring unemployment and higher education in the country has been awkward at best. Conventional wisdom would have us believe that a proliferation of universities would raise unemployment, but is it not true that more universities should immediately create thousands of job opportunities in certain sectors?

What is so encouraging about the government's statement yesterday is indeed its pledge to "liberate the people's creative potential to achieve progress in all aspects of life." Yet what we need to realise is that people's creative potential can only be released through less government intervention and more interaction by the people in running their affairs. Governments everywhere have proved time and again that no matter how efficient they are, they cannot outperform citizens when the issue at stake is managing their everyday lives.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i's Wednesday said that the Arab negotiators with Israel, starting from the conference of 1991, have committed an error by overlooking the need of a working committee entrusted with the task of securing a nuclear free zone in the Middle East. Ibrahim Al Absi said that the negotiators ought to have insisted that such a committee be created, like those which deal with energy, economy, water etc., so that the Arabs can be sure of a safe future and Israel's nuclear programme can be placed under control. Noting that the Arabs would not be demanding that the United States force Israel to subject its nuclear programme to inspection because such a request would not draw a positive response, the writer said that at least the Arab states can back Egypt's demands that Israel sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty so, as to ensure that the Middle East becomes a nuclear free zone. The Arabs can also add this issue to the agenda of the multilateral phase of the ongoing peace process and set a special committee to deal with the issue, added the writer. He said that unless Israel is made to comply with the Arab countries' demand, the Arabs will not renew their commitment to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and will have to work towards amassing nuclear weapons to ensure their safety.

IN COMMENTING on Israel's decision to separate the occupied Arab lands from Israel, Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dusour said that the decision could lead to permanent peace or a worsening of the situation, depending on Israel's real intentions. If the separation idea on Israel's real intentions, if the separation idea implies ensuring security for the Israelis only, then such a move would mean a siege on the Arabs who would subsequently escalate their resistance activities against the occupation, said the writer. On the other hand, he said, if the separation is geographical in nature, leading to the consolidation of Arab demands for return to the pre-1967 borders, the move would be a welcome development because it would mean stability and a step towards the creation of the long-awaited Palestine state.

### The View from Academia

## Peace in Palestine: Rectifying faults, failing and follies

ONE IS vexed, disappointed and even disillusioned with what is presently happening in Palestine at large: in Israel, in the occupied territories and the self-rule areas. Anywhere you look, things appear quite messy. The news we hear or watch daily is more bad than good, peace between the Palestinians and Israel is moving in no clear direction and is at a dead standstill, and the prospects of the bright future we have all been anticipating and praying for do not seem to be good in the least.

The "signs of the times," to quote Carlyle, are ominous, and the overall atmosphere is unhealthy. Even though I am generally an optimist and even though I still firmly believe that the best of times may very well emerge out of the worst of times in ways that many of us may not be able to predict or understand, I must nonetheless admit that I was more hopeful a couple of years or even than a year ago that I am now.

When the Palestinian self-rule agreement with Israel was reached in Oslo in September 1993, I, like many in the region, thought the agreement was a step in the right direction. To be sure, there were reservations about it: Why Gaza and Jericho in particular (perhaps the two most depressed and impoverished Palestinian regions)? Why negotiate a secret deal in Oslo behind the backs of official Palestinian and Israeli teams already negotiating openly and openly in Washington? Are not clandestine deals somewhat fishy and dubious? Why so many ambiguities in the test of the accord? Why did not the Palestinians insist on calling the occupied territories occupied territories? Why, why, why?

Despite these reservations and many others, one felt the agreement was potentially positive and constructive. In fact, one could have easily turned the reservations against themselves and turned the tables against the sceptics and the critics. Gaza and Jericho (unlike what some would have us believe) are as important, fundamental and vital as any other Palestinian territory (with the clear exception of Jerusalem). The claim that Israel does not want them (this is what we heard at the time) is remarkably short-sighted, to say the least. Could not the atmosphere prevailing throughout clandestine talks be more congenial to progress and give and take than that prevailing throughout highly publicised (and therefore highly tense and highly cautious) open meetings? Do not politicians conduct most real business behind closed doors? Can there ever be a language of a mutual political agreement which is not inevitably ambiguous and fluid? Does not the successful implementation of agreements depend largely on a genuine desire to implement, on good intentions, on goodwill, on common sense, on mutual respect, on a sense of fairness, on profound vision, on a sense of integrity, on true commitment? Since Oslo (and unlike in the far more pleasant and far more pleasing Jordan-Israeli talks), there has not much genuine desire, many good intentions, much goodwill, much commonsense, etc. The point to stress here is that most of the reservations and criticism of the Palestinian-Israeli deal I have heard so far are more pesimistic and intelligent when they address the conduct of Israeli and the PLO/PNA in the aftermath of Oslo than when they address the deal itself.

The thing about Gaza-Jericho First, which one appreciated most (and to some extent still does) stemmed from the fact that the agreement was an opportunity, a challenge and a test for both the Palestinians and Israel. How were the Palestinians (whose "sole" representative — the PLO — is largely untried as a governing body) to run their affairs and to govern themselves? How was the PLO to transform itself from a revolutionary organisation into a government? What was the long-awaited Palestinian homeland (or nucleus of a homeland) to be like? What would the relations between the Palestinians and Israelis be like? How was Israel to treat Gaza and Jericho? What spirit would Israel show in implementing the agreement and committing itself to the various promises and deadlines. Unfortunately, so far the opportunity has not been used properly, the challenge has not been lived up to, and the

test has not been passed. Ironically, the best function or result of the Gaza-Jericho First so far (and the agreement has been most enlightening and instructive in this respect) lies in its exposure of both Israeli and Palestinian failings, faults and follies. Until now, the Palestinian and Israeli sides have failed miserably not just in translating the agreement into a tangible reality but also in dealing with each other smoothly, fairly and professionally. For this, thanks go (though ironically and perversely) to the Oslo agreement without which we would not have seen the Israelis and Palestinians make foots of themselves in implementing the agreement and waste a historic opportunity and breakthrough (so far).

Has not the misery of the Palestinians increased since Oslo? Has not violence throughout Palestine doubled, tripled and quadrupled? Ought not the Palestinians and Israelis be celebrating, now that almost a year and half have passed since Oslo, instead of suffering?

What has gone wrong, and why? This is a question which the Palestinians and Israelis have to attempt to answer, honestly and courageously, if they are salvage what is left of the agreement.

Obviously, a great deal is wrong. My aim here is not to enumerate all the causes, or even most of them; this is a task better left to the Palestinian and Israeli experts. What I wish to do, rather, is to suggest some of the deeper, the most troubling and uncalled for causes.

Undeniably, the situation itself is partly to blame. We have to remember that the Palestinian-Israeli dimension is the most difficult and complex to deal with: It is more difficult and complex than the Israeli-Lebanese, Israeli-Jordanian, and Israeli-Syrian dimension. Yes, the Palestinian cause is the core of the Middle East problem; and yes, it is quite expected and natural for it to be the most difficult to tackle. But Israel is to blame. If we were to identify the one root cause lurking behind Israel's abuse of the self-rule agreement and its flagrant subversion of it (deliberate or inadvertent), I would say it is a mixture of selfishness, chauvinism, arrogance and greed. This is, in my opinion, where the true problem lies.

When one says this, one is not just talking about the Israeli settlers, most of whom are too narrow-minded, too avuncular, too violent, too inhuman, and too unrealistic and impossible. They usurp other people's land, fence it, build on it and deprive its owners of it without even the smallest degree of shame or guilt. And they are willing to shoot Palestinian civilians in cold blood for saying no to

the prevailing of the law. But what use is there in talking about the settlers? Their mentality and their practices are obvious to everyone. In Israel's own admission, they are "crazy" and "fanatical." Let's lay the blame then on the "moderates" and the "liberals" — the "enlightened" Labour government. I do not deny that Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres have made courageous steps and have taken constructive decisions throughout the various stages of the peace process, but their inexperience vis-a-vis Palestinian rights, their indifference to the promises they make, their disrespect of the deadlines they agree upon, and (most visibly) their position regarding the settlements and Jerusalem are both unacceptable and intolerable (despite the claim that they are at times "pressured" by the more radical parties and groups). Is it sensible and fair for Mr. Peres' deputy, Yossi Beilin, to say that the Israeli government "will insist" that the West Bank settlements, especially those near Jerusalem, be on Israel's permanent map? Is it sensible and fair of the Israeli cabinet (last Sunday) to "okay" more building around Jerusalem and in "state-owned" lands around the settlements? Since when is occupied land "state-owned"? All the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are illegal and are to be either dismantled or evacuated.

If Israel is to keep the settlements on its map, and if the settlements are to be linked with a network of roads, what is left of the occupied territories? If the Palestinians are to forget about the territories occupied in and before 1948 (the largest chunk of Palestine) and if they are to leave the

setters where they are, then the Palestinian refugees will remain dispersed and the Palestinians in the occupied territories will have a space more like that of a prison than a homeland. Where then is the solution to the Palestinian problem? How different ultimately then is the "liberal," "progressive," and "enlightened" Rabbin government from the settlers? And how different is it from them when it insists that Jerusalem (all of Jerusalem) is its unified and eternal capital, when the Muslims and the Christians have more religious sites than the Israelis do? Is not this selfish, chauvinistic, arrogant and greedy? Is not this mentality the real obstacle standing in the way of meaningful peace? Some may say that such statements on part of Israel are mere rhetoric and negotiating tactics. Well, I hope so; otherwise, how can Israel be serious about peace?

As for the Palestinians (represented at this point by the PLO/PNA), there is much to blame them for. Of course we sympathise with the difficult position the PLO/PNA is in, having to deal with uncompromised, intransigent peace partners such as Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres (at present), with impoverished territories to run, with a largely unemployed population, with donors reluctant to pay what they have pledged, with extremists and rejectionists who hope to see it fail, and so on and so forth.

But the PLO/PNA is to blame nonetheless, for many reasons. I shall confine myself to two or three. First, it has failed to live up to the image expected of it. No matter what the reasons, excuses or pretenses are, the PNA as a whole looks inefficient, incompetent, bland, boring, unheroic, dull, confused, hopeless and pathetic. Even though some of its members are intelligent, exciting and potentially heroic as individuals, as a team they are not a pretty sight to look at. They seem to be stuck, going around in circles and arriving nowhere.

Secondly, the PNA has so far failed to make use of the Palestinian potential at large. These moments in history are supposed to be so exciting and so crucial for the Palestinians. This is on the one hand. On the other hand, the Palestinians as a people have so much to offer: financially, intellectually, politically and socially. They have the resources and the experience. The PNA has not been the catalyst it is supposed to be, a catalyst which makes effective use of the Palestinian potential. In fact, it seems to have fragmented and torn apart its own people and seems to have alienated itself from them. Three people are smarter than one, and five than three.

Thirdly, and equally importantly, the PNA has failed to coordinate meaningfully with Jordan. I do not deny that all the Arab countries, from the Gulf to the ocean, are valuable brethren, but Jordan is the most precious (or ought to be) to Palestinians. For one thing, the fate, the destiny, the geography, the economy, the demography, the sociology and the culture of the two peoples are so intertwined and inter-connected that one cannot live in isolation from the other. For another, the Jordanian experience with institution building and with democracy is so vital, the PNA could benefit a lot from Jordan (at a time when the PNA is being criticised for lack of democratic institutions). Moreover, the fact that the Jordanian government has finalised a very successful peace treaty with Israel and that it has at present a good working relationship with it can only be an asset to the PNA, as a mediator and a partner. Closer coordination with Jordan is a must.

My intention here not to be critical or cynical. The point is clear. There is a big chance for everyone in the Middle East, especially in Palestine (where there is still a problem), to live (and let live) decently, fairly and squarely. We have to see the concerned parties blow this chance. Israel must wake up, be less selfish and arrogant. The moderate Israelis have to assert themselves more positively and constructively. By their inexperience and silence, they are allowing the radicals and the fanatics to flourish. The PNA must pull its act together, affirm itself competently and efficiently, and embrace all sensible parties and individuals. There is nothing worse than being alienated, alienating or mediocre.

## Sharif Zeid pledges commitment to democracy, cooperation with the legislature

Government confidence speech translation provided by Petra News Agency

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful May Allah's prayers and peace be upon the Arab Prophet, His kin and companions

Your excellency Speaker of the House Distinguished deputies

May Allah's peace His mercy and His blessings be upon you.

We thank Allah, the Almighty, for gathering us in this joint session of the legislative and executive authorities, at a time when our country is entering a new era which His Majesty King Hussein wanted to be an era of change where we continue building a state of law and institutions, enhancing democratic practice, realising social justice and equality among all citizens, moving comprehensive reform into a stage of reassessment steered by clear vision and sound methodology, and reacting to challenges imposed by confrontations out of which Jordan emerged with dignity and pride. What I mean by this is that Jordan stood up to economic challenges, with steadfastness when it was besieged, and stubbornly determined to restore full sovereignty over its land thus regaining its rightful share of water, and carrying its duty towards nation in accordance with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt. Jordan continued its achievements in various fields despite the huge challenges, and Jordanians remained patient and courageous in facing the difficulties with full confidence in the inevitability of overcoming these crises, abiding by their constitution, charter and laws, dignified in their patience and pride, forgiving in their charity and sacrifices.

In submitting to your distinguished Parliament the government's statement for your vote of confidence, we reaffirm our commitment to spare no effort in extending our full cooperation to the legislative authority, in order to enhance the bases of parliamentary life in all its aspects, and in a manner that guarantees the full commitment to the principle of the separation of power

in the context of cooperation and balance among them in accordance with the constitution.

Constructive dialogue, and the sense of national responsibility would constitute our pivotal axis for cooperation with the deputies and representatives of our nation.

We affirm under this dome

and in accordance with the spirit of the letter of appointment, our commitment to the state of law and institutions and declare before your House our adherence to the constitution in letter and spirit, to the national charter as an operational guideline, and to the prevalence of law as a basis for justice and equality among people.

We also affirm our commitment to democracy based on political pluralism, the respect of freedom of thought, and of public and private freedoms, while affirming that democracy for us is an irreversible way of life, and that there will be no turning back from moving forward to enhance it and build its institutions, as a means of realising our national and pan-Arab objectives, and as a way of liberating creative potential, and reacting to challenges imposed by confrontations out of which Jordan emerged with dignity and pride. What I mean by this is that Jordan stood up to economic challenges, with steadfastness when it was besieged, and stubbornly determined to restore full sovereignty over its land thus regaining its rightful share of water, and carrying its duty towards nation in accordance with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt. Jordan continued its achievements in various fields despite the huge challenges, and Jordanians remained patient and courageous in facing the difficulties with full confidence in the inevitability of overcoming these crises, abiding by their constitution, charter and laws, dignified in their patience and pride, forgiving in their charity and sacrifices.

The government will also

endeavour to elevate the status of the judicial system affirming full commitment to guarantee and safeguard its independence and enhance its tools and potentials in order to shoulder its responsibilities in deepening the democratic practice in the context of the state of law.

The government will be the

government's top priority in the

sense of activating the legislation

concerning filing suits and modifying them. The government will provide all the necessary requirements to establish the needed courts in all parts of the Kingdom, enabling the citizen to reach the system easily.

The government will also establish

judicial, statutory, public and executive departments in order to facilitate the access to judicial services to the public.

The government believes that

providing the suitable climate for

judges in the context of new

posts would contribute to creating

proper atmospheres that

would lead to utmost justice.

This, in turn, would enable every

citizen to regain his rights in due time.

The government will start to

employ modern technologies,

develop administrative work in

courts and existing justice de-

partments and to closely pursue

the construction of the justice

palace in order to be a beacon

of rights and a monument of

justice. In addition, the government

will provide the means of knowl-

edge to judges through scholar-

ships and scientific courses as

well as newsletters, periodicals

and the specialised library which

the Ministry of Justice is plan-

ning to establish. The govern-

ment will work on founding clubs

for judges in order to provide the

# Weekender

Jan. 26, 1995 A

Published Every Thursday

## Busy schedule awaits arrival of imperial couple

Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako arrive in Amman today on a four-day official visit at the invitation of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. This is the first visit of members of the Japanese imperial family to the Kingdom, thus, according to Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Uji Ikeda, it reaffirms the strong ties linking the peoples of both countries.

Accompanying the visiting couple throughout their four-day programme will be the escort of honour. Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan and Advisor to His Majesty, Yanal Hikmat. The programme will introduce the imperial couple to a sampling of the social development projects and services offered in the Kingdom, and the people dedicated to such causes, and Jordan's rich natural and historic sites, as well as its colourful heritage, and again, the people behind their preservation. Highlights include the inauguration of the X-ray unit at the Red Crescent Hospital. Jordanian National Red Crescent Society President Mohammad Hadid will brief the guests as they tour the hospital's various departments. The X-ray unit was equipped with donations from the Japanese Red Cross. Also, heritage preservationist and collector Widad Kawa, and active member of the Petra National Trust, was asked to present a showing of her famous collection of rare, traditional Jordanian and Palestinian costumes, jewellery and other accessories. The luncheon event will take place at Taybet Zaman, a 19th century Ottoman village that has been restored and converted into a resort that houses overnight accommodations, a crafts centre, food and beverage establishments including a bakery and a ful and hommos outlet. A small museum is currently in the works.

The Imperial couple will also visit the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) Sheltered Workshops, which are partially sponsored by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

The Shelter Workshops employ mentally handicapped individuals who have been trained in various carpentry skills. All the furniture in the Office of the Crown Prince has been made by the people employed at these workshops.

**GOING JUST AS YOU'RE NEEDED:** The Jordanian-Scandinavian Friendship Association, whose chief representatives were called together recently, regrettably heard fellow member Swedish Ambassador Christian Bausch announce that his embassy would be shutting down operations. The official reason behind the closure is that the Swedish Foreign Office is cutting back on expenses (by eleven per cent, according to one estimate) and the embassy

in Jordan is one of 15 embassies being scrapped. At the association gathering, which included Tove Kjewsly, ambassador of Norway, Tawfiq Kawar, honorary consul of Denmark and president of the association, Stefania Khalifeh, consul of Iceland and vice president of the association, Tette Wegelin, vice consul of Finland, Ella Dajani, president of the Scandinavian Ladies of Amman, a branch of the friendship association, and George Khoury, former honorary consul of Norway, some members found it odd that the Swedish Foreign Office had shut down its embassy in the United Arab Emirates, opened an embassy in Kuwait and reinforced its staff in Jerusalem. They also asked themselves, if the Swedes plan to install a consul, how would he/she be able to handle the heavy load of serving Iraq (primarily visa applications) from Amman which the regular embassy staff already found substantial. While these are political and logistical considerations, the association itself is concerned with coordinating much of the non-political activities of the five countries in Jordan, including the recent Arbor Day tree planting ceremony at the Scandinavian Forest, presided over by Princess Majda Ra'd. Iceland's Khalifeh, who was looking forward to an exciting bidding for a Nordic film week, hopes that Sweden, world famous for bringing such greats as Ingmar Bergman, Ingrid Bergman and Liv Ulman to the silver screen, would still see it through to contribute to the occasion nonetheless.

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### COUNTERPARTS GET TOGETHER:

Closer to home, and two nights prior to the departure for Baghdad of the Kingdom's new ambassador to Iraq, Bassam Qaqish, Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Noor Ismail Al Weiyess hosted a dinner for his Jordanian counterpart. It is rare that such an event of diplomatic courtesy draws in as many as seven ministers, two ministry secretaries general, one senator and two chief editors of Jordanian publications. But then the guest of honour here was no less than Qaqish, who is popular by all accounts. With all four of his children married, Qaqish headed for the Iraqi capital with his wife Suzy on what we wish him to be a successful mission.

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### NOTHING TO DO WITH EXTERIOR:

Over at the Ministry of Interior's Follow-up and Inspection Department, former Director Mohammad Adwan has been replaced by acting Director Ihsan Al Khatib. First breathing a sigh of relief, jubilant cousin's of Khatib placed a congratulatory advertisement in Arabic papers wishing their cousin well in his new mission. That post yields much power, and now with Khatib, a Hebronite, at the wheel, the road to getting permission to travel to and from the occupied territories may prove less bumpy.



Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako leave for a parade after their marriage ceremony at the Imperial Palace (File photo)

when we ruled th

No solution to the

part of the claimant,

always room for an

gesture, like changing

the name of the bridge, together. In fact the latter

idea has been touted by the highest echelons of

officialdom in Jordan, but no final decision has been

taken. One of the new names mentioned was in fact

"peace," bridge, another was simply the "valley"

bridge.

Jennifer Hamarneh

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

UP-TO-DATE

By Louis Sabin

**ACROSS**

- Smart guy
- 5 School supply
- 10 Shopping cart
- 12 Laundry
- 15 Over
- 18 Coat of old times
- 21 Daughter
- 22 Son of Seth
- 23 Strong Horne
- 24 Who's son's son, deceased
- 25 African land
- 26 African areas
- 30 River to the Shire
- 31 Cemetery Hill
- 32 Best of the West
- 33 Daily service
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- 2 Chandelier
- 3 Chandelier Globe
- 4 Tenants of song
- 5 Sustains the
- 6 Kind of plant
- 7 Chimes in her
- 8 Introducing
- 11 Place for Kennedy
- 12 Exec. excess
- 13 Sounds of uncertainty
- 14 Story of
- 15 Fairy tale word
- 17 Loud burst of laughter
- 18 Purse del —
- 19 Denim
- 20 Polyester
- 21 Overweight
- 22 Kind of fabric
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the path of the building of the state of law, strengthening democracy, achieving social justice and reform.

The prime minister said Jordan emerged from the challenges that were imposed on it with its dignity maintained and its rights in land and water restored.

In another reference to the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel, Sharif Zeid said the government considers the accord a link in the chain of achieving peace in the Middle East, stressing a just, lasting commitment to a just, lasting

and comprehensive settlement with Israel on the basis of recovering all occupied Arab lands and in implementation of U.N. resolutions 242, 338 and 425.

He said the government will continue its bilateral and multilateral negotiations with Israel to guarantee the conclusion of agreements that would ensure the attainment of the Kingdom's and the Arab Nation's goals and interests.

The prime minister reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinian people and their right to achieve statehood on their national soil with Jerusalem as their capital.

The government will continue to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and intends to establish solid and comprehensive ties with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in accordance with a clear vision that realizes the national interests of the two brotherly people," Sharif Zeid told legislators before leaving the House to receive PLO Chair-

man Yasser Arafat.

Improving relations with Arab countries will also be a priority for the government.

Sharif Zeid said, adding the requirements of the new era make it impossible for the country to be isolated from its Arab and Muslim depth.

"My government stresses its concern with achieving Arab solidarity, and will work to build strong relations... predicated on confidence and mutual respect."

## THE MANY FACES OF INDIA

A COUNTRY so vast, India represents diversity in all its forms: people, religions, customs and traditions, clothes, dialects and habits. It begins with the highest peaks and descends across steep slopes and rolling plains to submerge in not one but three seas. Beaches surround her coasts and in Rajasthan there is the stillness of the Thar desert. The great seas, a still desert, the might of the Himalayas... India has all this and more. Backwater canals and tropical forests, rugged hill towns, river estuaries, wooded swamps and glacial meadows. Regions unattainable by road. Places unexplored. The suavity of city dwellers contrasts sharply with aboriginal tribes who still lead their sheltered existence unhindered by the spread of civilisation.

Behind the veil of diversity lies a vibrant India, united by a common "Indianness," which thrives on the diversity and sustains it at the same time. The transcendent Indianness has for ages inspired a collective nation-consciousness, which gives every Indian a sense of belonging to a single ethical, social entity. To the Indian, the country is a harmonious whole which he does not question. To the foreigner, the diversity is a puzzling complexity which he seeks to unravel.

One of the world's oldest civilisations, India of today, has flowered with a kaleidoscopic variety and a rich cultural heritage. During the forty-seven years of independence, it has achieved multi-faceted socio-economic progress which, in turn, h-

elped sustain its age-old traditions.

The past lives on in India's continuity. There is no nostalgia for what was, no impatient anticipation for what will be. For the philosophy of the land dictates that to live for the moment is to share the spiritual joy of belonging.

The people of India are largely descendants of immigrants from across the Himalayas who invaded the country, also known as the "Golden Bird" due to its rich resources. These invaders came at various points in history to produce not just the Indian race but also the multi-dimensional Indian culture.

Each new conqueror ended up conquering the hearts of the masses by adding their traditions and cultures to the Indian ensemble.

Islam found its way into India in the 8th century A.D. Muslim conquerors came to the country and settled down. Subsequently, the Maghals established a mighty empire.

So recent was their reign that monuments of that period are virtually intact. Islam today,



Every dance form in India has its own idiom of emotional expressions.



reached the pinnacle of her glory. Hailed as the "Golden Age," the spirit of learning spread during this period across the length and breadth of the country. In southern India, the Chola, Pandya and Chera dynasties flourished before paving the way for the Chalukyas and Pallavas to establish their domination.

Islam found its way into India in the 8th century A.D. Muslim conquerors came to the country and settled down. Subsequently, the Maghals established a mighty empire.

So recent was their reign that monuments of that period are virtually intact. Islam today,

has the second biggest following in the country next to Hinduism, the religion of the Aryans and the fusion of Arabic and Hindi has given birth to Urdu, a delicate refined language.

The cultural synthesis which was the hallmark of Indian history since ancient period, reached its zenith during the mediaeval times, when the concept of "Ganga-Jamuna" or intermingled styles and traditions took shape.

The mediaeval era which has dotted the landscape with the beautiful gardens, forts and the Taj Mahal and bred dance, music and literature that ties India with the Mideast, stands testimony to the impact of religious tolerance on cultural enhancement.

The Mughal rule flourished during the time of Akbar, who stood for religious tolerance, and decayed with fundamentalists taking over during the reign of Aurangzeb.

Then came the British —

as a political body. For the first time in its history, India was united in a bid to oust foreign dominance. When battles proved worthless, leaders of the statue of Tilak, Lajpat Rai, Gandhi

and Nehru rose from the ranks. And India regained its independence to become a democratic nation.

Western culture came to

the country in the 19th century with the British. The impact of the modern Western culture soon gave birth to a new awakening in India, exposing the traditional Indian society to scientific Western thinking.

Souvenirs of its glorious past still survive in India.

Edicts and stupas from the Mauryan age; the rock temples and mural paintings of Ajanta and Ellora from the Gupta age; the magnificent heritage of Chola and Pallava kings; the striking 13th century Sun Temple at Konark;

the traditions of architecture left behind by the Muslim rulers in Delhi, Mandu, Golconda, Ahmedabad and Bijapur; the great palaces of the Mughals — the Red Fort, Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri; the

imperial extravagance of the

Raj with the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, their great universities and the initiation into the industrial age which resulted in the railways, posts and telegraphs and an organised, central administrative machinery.

This history continues to live in India. Religion and culture combine with education to give the Indian a background that other nations envy. And in the tradition of excellence, India now builds great universities, atomic power plants, factories, hydraulic projects, and dams... "the temples of modern India," as Nehru called them.

The element of diversity also has its reflections in the

**ASCOTEL △**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

WISHES THE INDIAN PEOPLE, THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

PROGRESS, DEVELOPMENT, PROSPERITY AND SUCCESS

WE WILL ALWAYS WORK HARD HAND BY HAND

TO BRING ABOUT A RAPIDLY GROWING INDIAN

JORDANIAN CO-OPERATION FOR THE BEST

OF THE INTEREST OF BOTH PEOPLE

**ASCOTEL △**

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Present their congratulations to the people of India and to the Indian Embassy staff in Jordan.



**Hijazi and Ghosheh, Industrial, Agricultural and Trading Group**

Offers its congratulations to the president, government and friendly people of India on the occasion of

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**General Manager Issam Hijazi.**

**JORDAN FERTILIZER INDUSTRY COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

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**THE PEOPLE OF INDIA  
A HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY  
AFFIRMING JORDANIAN FRIENDSHIP  
AND HOPES OF CONTINUED  
PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY**



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Congratulate the president

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Extend their warm felicitations to the people of India and the Indian diaspora on the occasion of

**THE REPUBLIC DAY**

on the occasion of the Republic Day Som Datt Building conveys its best wishes and cordial regards to the people of India

## Government presents policy

(Continued from page 1)

the path of the building of the state of law, strengthening democracy, achieving social justice and reform.

The prime minister said Jordan emerged from the "challenges that were imposed on it" with its dignity maintained and its rights in land and water restored.

In another reference to the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel, Sharif Zeid said the government considers the accord a link in the chain of achieving peace in the Middle East, stressing the Kingdom's commitment to a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement with Israel on the basis of recovering all occupied Arab lands and in implementation of U.N. resolutions 242, 338 and 423.

He said the government will continue its bilateral and trilateral negotiations with Israel to guarantee the conclusion of agreements that would ensure the attainment of the Kingdom's and the Arab Nation's goals and interests.

The prime minister reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinian people and their right to achieve statehood on their national soil with Jerusalem as their capital.

"The government will continue to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and intends to establish solid and comprehensive ties with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in accordance with a clear vision that realises the national interests of the two brotherly people," Sharif Zeid told legislators before leaving the House to receive PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Improving relations with Arab countries will also be a priority for the government, Sharif Zeid said, adding the requirements of the new era make it impossible for the country to be isolated from its Arab and Muslim depth.

"My government stresses its concern with achieving Arab solidarity, and will work to build strong relations predicated on confidence and mutual respect

...and will seek the highest degree of coordination in the political, economic, social and cultural fields" with Arab countries, said Sharif Zeid, adding the government will also pursue the reactivation of joint Arab institutions, mainly the Arab League.

In the only reference to Iraq in the statement, Sharif Zeid said the government, in cooperation with other friendly countries, will continue its efforts to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and lift the economic embargo imposed on them.

The prime minister also stressed the importance of developing relations with all members of the international community, especially Islamic countries, adding that Jordan will stand by the Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina and work towards the ending of the suffering of the Chechen people.

The government, said Sharif Zeid, will strengthen the feelings of belonging to the Arab and Muslim culture by highlighting the complementarity between Arabism and Islam. He said the government will encourage the spread of the Muslim culture and support the message of the mosque.

Addressing the role of the official media, the prime minister said the government will have as one of its priorities the modernisation of the media so that they will be close to the problems of the people and will help consolidate the democratic practice through credible coverage of events.

Sharif Zeid said the government will also review legislation governing the operation of the press in the country in consultation with the press association and experts.

"The government is committed to guaranteeing the freedom of the press that was ensured by the Constitution and in accordance with the National Charter," the prime minister stressed.

He said the government is counting on the review of the draft law for the Jordan Press Association, which is now with the House, to strengthen

the role of the union in organising the journalism profession and guaranteeing the freedom of the press "within the moral and national responsibility, the conditions of honesty and credibility... and tolerance and supporting the democratic orientation in consistency with the Constitution."

Stressing the urgency with which the government sees the necessity of developing the national economy, the prime minister said the government will proceed with the reform programme, encourage the private sector, improve the investment environment and seek cooperation with the Arab countries, the PNA, and international groups such as the European Union.

He said the government will also work to develop educational institutions so that they will be able to meet the requirements of the new era, and will review school curricula and encourage vocational training.

The policy statement addressed other domestic sectors such as agriculture, tourism, social legislation, women's rights, services provided to citizens and pensions for retired army and civil service personnel among others.

"As my government presents the House with this policy statement and asks for your confidence on its basis, we hope that your debates will enrich the plans and projects included in it and that cooperation is achieved for the good of our country, people and nation under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein," Sharif Zeid told lawmakers.

**Vote after debate**

The House is expected to take two to three days in discussing the policy statement and indications are that the government will emerge from the confidence session with a strong parliamentary mandate though it will be subjected to tough criticism from opposition deputies.

Observers say the government will secure 54 to 56

votes of confidence in the 80-member House since it has the support of most members of four parliamentary blocs as well as the majority of independent lawmakers.

Withholding confidence will be the 17-member Islamic Action Front, the only bloc excluded from the government, and leftist deputies Bassam Haddadin (Zarqa), Khalil Haddadin (Amman) Mustafa Shmeikat (Balqa), Toujan Faisal (Amman) as well as Deputy Talal Obaidat (Irbid).

Joining the opposition deputies in criticising the government will be lawmakers who are unhappy with their exclusion from the ministerial team.

Ahmad Qudah (Ajloun) highlighted this unhappiness among such deputies in a recent speech when he subjected the government to the harshest criticism yet for not having Ajloun (50 kilometres of Amman) represented in the Cabinet.

Parliamentary sources said Dr. Qudah could be joined by two to three deputies, including Deputy Abdul Hafez Shakhambet (Mada'in), in withholding confidence from the government in an expression of discontent about keeping them or their constituencies out of the Cabinet.

Dr. Shakhambet told the Jordan Times Wednesday that it is "very likely" that he will withhold confidence from the government because the "ministerial team is not an able one."

Parliamentary sources say opposition members will use the confidence session as an opportunity to air their views about the peace treaty and alleged encroachment on their freedom of expression. But supporters of the government will not allow the opposition to win the day, observers say. Therefore, they too will deliver speeches to counter the opposition's allegations and defend the government's position, especially on the peace treaty whose advantages they will try to spell out.

Sharif Zeid's cabinet is the fifth government to seek the confidence of the House since the parliamentary elections of 1989. Observers say the government will secure 54 to 56

## King, Arafat discuss bilateral ties

(Continued from page 1)

by the King to El Areech on Egypt's border with the Gaza Strip, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

The two leaders later started expanded talks over a working dinner with senior officials from both sides attending at the Raghda Palace.

Petra said the King reaffirmed Jordan's continued support for the Palestinian people until they achieve their rights to their national soil and underlined the necessity to strengthen inter-Arab relations based on clarity and honesty.

The King also reiterated that Jordan would continue its role in safeguarding the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem as it has done before based on its keenness to protect the interest of the (Arab and Muslim) Nation," Petra said.

"Jordan has no ambition other than to preserve the shrines and their Islamic and Arab identity," Petra quoted the King as saying.

In brief comments upon arrival at Mafraq airport, Mr. Arafat, on his first visit to Jordan since May, gave little clue to his approach to a "memorandum of understanding and cooperation" and six protocols that were drafted by a joint committee over the past two days.

The PLO leader would only say that he needed to "study the accords," but stressed that both Jordan and the Palestinians had a "common goal to achieve solidarity and heal inter-Arab differences."

The "memorandum" and protocols, which set out a framework for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation in banking and monetary affairs, education, trade, transport and telecommunications, are expected to be signed by Mr. Arafat on Thursday before he leaves Jordan.

The PLO leader visited Jordan in May and several reported plans to come here after he moved to the Gaza Strip in July were called off as he refused to sign an economic accord negotiated in

January 1994.

Relations were further strained over Jerusalem after Israel acknowledged Jordan's "special" role in Islamic shrines in the Holy City in the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

According to Jordanian officials, the way for an Arafat visit was cleared when the two sides reached an understanding over the sensitive question of Jordan's role in the Islamic shrines in Arab East Jerusalem based on mutual acceptance and support for each other's negotiations and agreements with Israel, which each side initially criticised.

The accord contains a Jordanian commitment to support the implementation of the Israel-PLO declaration of principles and the Palestinian quest for an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. This is reciprocated by Palestinian support of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, describing it as "an important step" towards the restoration of Jordanian

Wednesday could mean that he was holding for more in other areas of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation.

The draft documents commit Jordan and the PNA to formulate a joint strategy that involves close and constant coordination in the Middle East peace process and cooperation in all fields.

The memorandum of understanding, or the preamble of the document, is based on mutual acceptance and support for each other's negotiations and agreements with Israel, which each side initially criticised.

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Jordanian officials interpreted the Palestinian acceptance of the Jordan-Israel accord as meaning that the PNA "acknowledges Jordanian custodianship of the holy shrines in Jerusalem."

The Jordanian side to the talks included His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, the King's Military Secretary Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, Deputy Prime Minister Khaled Al Karaz, Foreign Minister Kabariti and Interior Minister Salameh Hammoud.

On the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by PNA cabinet members Yasir Abed Rabbo, Yasser Amer, Ahmad Qourie, Abdul Aziz Al Haj Ahmad, Jamil Tarib, and Abdul Hameed Ashshab, PLO acting ambassador to Jordan Omar Khatri and Hakam Balawi, a key Palestinian security official.

## Kabariti deplores Tel Aviv bombing

(Continued from page 1)

Kabariti deplored these developments which, he said, were aimed at undermining the peace process.

"Terrorism, violence and counter-violence must not be allowed to hinder the peace process or undermine serious efforts towards achieving real progress in the ongoing negotiations on all tracks," Mr. Kabariti told the Jordan Times.

Responding to a question, the minister said that "one cannot but condemn this cycle of violence and killings no matter what the motives or justifications were." He stressed that "reaction to such acts must not serve the aims of those who do not want the region to reach a state of just and comprehensive peace."

He added that "the best response is to proceed ahead in the peace process so that we can achieve positive developments that reflect the lives of the people in the region and open the way for progress and growth."

On Jordan's position vis-a-vis the controversy over the signing of the No-Proliferation Treaty, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan's position was clear in the framework of the U.N. General Assembly in terms of rejecting the use of nuclear weapons and the threat of using such weapons. He said this position calls for a total removal of these arms and all weapons of mass destruction.

He pointed out that Jordan had succeeded in including a clause in its peace treaty with Israel for working towards "the creation of a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction, both conventional and non-conventional."

## Indian films make their mark

Mustafa Ali is a taxi driver in New York City who has no cine where India is, but Hindi films and songs are his favourite. Ali, an Egyptian, is not the only one of his kind. There are thousands of avid watchers of Indian movies across the African continent, South Asia, South East Asia, Middle East and Russia. "Though I don't know much about India's politics, I love its films and Amitabh Bachchan is my favourite," says Harry Moza, a Ghanaian.

Indian films, especially Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam and Bengali, have become the country's ambassadors of goodwill crossing over political barriers. In fact, in the early 60's, Actor-Director, Raj Kapoor was more popular than even politicians in Eastern Europe. "Mera Joota Hai Japani..." and "Awaara Hoon..." were two songs which are still popular in Russia and China.

Hindi films are also very popular in neighbouring Pakistan, where these films are seen on pirated video cassettes. Their popularity even rose to greater heights after the completion of a Indo-Pak venture, "Henna" which starred Zeba Bakhtiar, a Pakistani actress.

India's film industry is the largest in the world, releasing nearly 1000 movies a year.

Most of these films are produced in Bombay, commonly called Bollywood, and

awarded to Satyajit Ray for television and cable TV.

Indian cinema is today eighty-two years old. Since the first ever Indian film, "Raja Harish Chandra" hit the screen on May 3, 1913, since then cinema has been extremely popular.

Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen and Ritwik Ghatak are the torch-bearers of the new-wave cinema in India.

The crowning glory for Indian cinema was the Oscar awarded to Satyajit Ray for

his contribution to the art form.

Mrinal Sen experiments with new wave as well as fantasy. His well-known films include Bhuvan Shome, Chorus, Mrigaya and Akeler Sandhana. Ritwik Ghatak's films bore traumas of change in a man's world. The Hindi film industry also saw films from the 'New Cinema Group'. These include Basu Chatterjee's Sara Akash, Shyam Benegal's Manthan,

Nishant, Kalug and Trikali.

Quality films have emerged from the South with the advent of Directors like K. Balachander, Jayakanthan, John Abraham, Adoor Gopalakrishna, Aravindan and Mani Ratnam, whose recent movie 'Roja' in Tamil (later dubbed in Hindi) was a superhit. The film is about the kidnap of a scientist by Kashmiri militants and his wife's efforts to secure his release. The songs of the film

have also become overwhelmingly popular both at home and abroad, with the Music Director, 16-year-old A.R. Rahman winning the national award.

With several countries hosting retrospectives of eminent Indian film-makers, people abroad are now getting exposed to quality films as well as wholesome entertainment movies. Indian films have certainly come of age.

**Felicitations and best wishes to India and her people on its Republic Day**  
with best compliments from  
**Moh'd S. Al Kalash and Naim E. Zaghloul**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA**  
**jig**

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## The Republic Day of India

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THE REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

**on the occasion of the Republic Day of India Som Datt Builders Limited conveys its felicitations and cordial wishes to the people of India**

## Computers arabisation: A continuous challenge

By Jean-Claude Elias

Computer arabisation has already been the subject of this column two times since 1993. Today, our intention is not to talk about or analyse any technical point regarding arabisation but rather to re-examine its global importance.

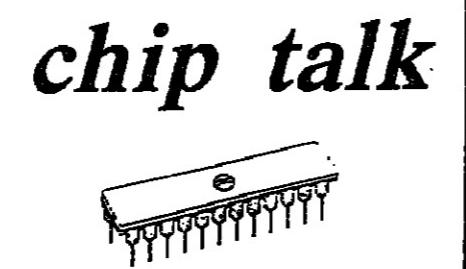
Arabisation is the possibility to use programmes in Arabic, eventually in conjunction with other languages. The celebrated Nafitha arabisation system, that is also one of the earliest in the history of PCs, allows users to work in Arabic, using standard software, not necessarily designed with the Arabic language in mind. The well-known dBase programme for example was initially developed to run in English, or any other Latin-alphabet-based language. Once Nafitha is installed however, one can enter and process Arabic data with dBase. Naturally the commands and menus remain in English. Though widely implemented, Nafitha has inherent weaknesses.

Then came the arabisation of Microsoft Windows. Ironically, Nafitha is the Arabic word for "window". It is certainly just a coincidence. Microsoft started by arabising the main Windows operating system and then took on arabising the different programmes that one would usually like to have on top of Windows: Excel spreadsheet, MS-Word word processor and Access data base. The obvious advantage compared with Nafitha is that the programmes are meant to work in Arabic and are not just adapted. No feature is removed from the English original work.

The effort it takes to release a bilingual (Arabic/English) version of each of these packages is huge. Only system analysts and software developers have a good idea of what it takes to do that. Also every time a new English version is released, Excel 4.0, 5.0, etc., the equivalent bilingual must be prepared.

Earlier this week a team of Microsoft experts gave a lecture-seminar in one of Amman's hotels to a large group of graciously invited guests, introducing the company's fully arabised "Microsoft Office" package that includes Excel, Word, Access, PowerPoint and Mail. The team is currently touring the Middle East and making presentations at the rhythm of one country a day.

"With its amazing success record, it makes no doubt



in everybody's mind that Microsoft is a business conscious company. Which brings the obvious question: Is the market for Arabic software worth all the trouble? Knowing Microsoft one should answer yes, even before starting any situation analysis. The total population in the Arab countries is approximately 250 millions. Some factors contribute to reduce the market size: Computer literacy in Yemen for instance is much lower than in Jordan and some PC users in Arab countries work in English only. Other factors on the contrary contribute to increase the market size: Arabic is not only used in the Arab countries. On average, these factors counter balance and the final market size may be considered as 250 millions.

A negative factor, that has nothing to do with market size is wide spread usage of software piracy in the Arab countries. One must however acknowledge that many of these countries have recently implemented copyright laws and have actually started enforcing them: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, for example.

So, are Microsoft efforts rewarding, financially and directly speaking? Only the company can tell. Our guess however is a strong "yes". While Nafitha was designed in Bahrain, by "01 Systems", an Arab company, Microsoft is a U.S. corporation and its arabisation team is based in Redmond, WA. It is certain that they consider the Arab market as very important, if not for now then for the short future. One thing is sure: Without the Arabic-English versions of Word and Excel they have become accustomed to, millions of users from Abu Dhabi to Morocco wouldn't see the world through the same eyes.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

### TANTALIZING FACTS

\* In Seattle, the capital of Washington state, there is a special museum where different equipment for grilling the bread are displayed.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

\* Sons of a Tanzanian tribe believe that an exchange of spitting on one another is a sign of expressing respect and good intention. Therefore, expectoration has become their custom whenever they meet or see themselves off.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

\* An American company produces some kind of biscuit for children who dislike using a brush and toothpaste. The new product refreshes and cleans the mouth and teeth.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

\* In Darwin, Australia, an annual race is held between boats which are totally made of empty cans of beer.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

\* In Atlanta, USA, there is also a museum which is completely provided with everything related to Mitchel novel *Gone With The Wind*.

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— Do you like fruit? Hal tohibbo al-fakiba?

— Yes, I do. It's very useful for our bodies as it's rich in vitamins.

Na'am shibboha. Innaha mufeedaton le-ajsamina wa ghaniyatun bil-vitaminat.

— What about having some fruit juice?

Ma ra'yokha fee tanawil ba'dan min asril fakiba?

— Why not? I'd like a glass of orange juice, please.

Weltina is? Oreedo kooban min asril burqatul, min fadlik.

— What fruit do you like to eat?

Hal fakiba illati tohibbo anna ta'kola?

— Bananas, grapes, peaches and figs.

Al mawz, al inab, al khokh, wat-teen.

— Are fruit prices high?

Hal as'aarul fakiba murtasfi'a?

— No, they are reasonable. La, innaha ms'qila.

— Does Jordan produce mangoes?

Hal youtij al-Ordon al-manja?

— No, we import it from Egypt and India.

La, fanabu nastawridha min Misr wal-Hind.

— Do you like eating jam at breakfast?

Hal tohibbo anna ta'kola al-murabba indal iftar?

— Yes, and also apricot and strawberry.

Na'am, wakazalkha murabba al-mishmish wal-farawia.

— Do you grow fruit in your garden?

Hal ta'zra'ouq fakiba fee hadeekatikom?

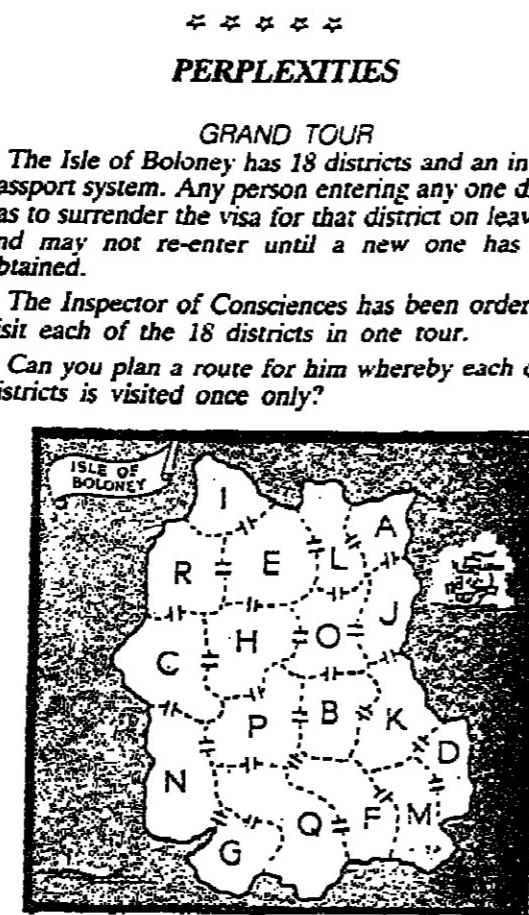
— Yes, we grow tangerines, pears, plums, almonds, quinces, pomegranates, dates and cherries.

Na'am, fanabu na'ra yusif al-afandi, kummattha (ljeess), barquq, lawz, safarjal, rumman, balab wa karaz.

### TIME FOR FUN

\* An idle man knocked at a door and asked the housewife for something to eat.

“Well, I'll give you some food on condition that



## The irrepressible impulse

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaaen

The belief that there is a serious malaise at the very heart of literature is not new. The arts have been failing for ever, with poetry, drama and now fiction dropping off the bough. Novels are nowhere as good as they used to be 10 years ago, 50 years ago, 100 years ago. Maybe, in fact, the form is dying at last, as so many have predicted — passing, perhaps, into the hands of disappointed politicians, stand-up comedians or catwalk models, or disappearing entirely off the page and into the screen.

Nothing stimulates literary discussion more than a sound sense of malaise, and malaise has been around for some time now. I am an academic, and it is well-known in academic literary circles there are many theories. It was in the sixties that these theories began to acquire an ever-increasing sense of morbidity. First there was Post-Modernism: the theory of "the literature of exhaustion," where everything was a quotation from everything else. Then after Post-Modernism came Post-Mortemism. This took the form of the Theory of the Death of the Subject, the Theory of the Death of the Author, and the Theory of the Death of the Book where a screen-based

global village replaces the print-based culture. But anyone who moves in literary circles, or has simply heard a literary critic speak, will know the power of these theories. You have only to go to the subject catalogue of any library to see the long list of books on the Death of the Subject. The Author shelves of any bookshop display to us what a vast number of authors have written on the Death of the Author. And both the libraries and the bookstores are filled with books dealing with the Death of the Book.

But, even in the age of ever-multiplying imagery, the word has not died, and the book has not disappeared. Someone once said that if the match had been invented after the cigarette lighter, people would have called it an improvement. The same is surely true of the book, which may have changed but shows every sign of surviving the technological revolution. The movies may be fine, and interactive TV a human blessing. But the book, which you can slip into your pocket, mark up, rifle through back and forth, throw over your shoulder, read on the beach or in the bath, tear, wipe up with, go back to, or store elegantly, is still with us. And so is the serious novel and the serious author.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Jan. 26

7:30 N.B.A.

8:30 Road To Avonlea

Felicity's first crush has a hilarious result as she defies her parents to meet with her young man.

9:10 The Hat Squad

When two policemen and a star witness are killed, the Hat Squad traces the murders of two brothers who are professional hit men.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Blind Spot

Starring: Joanne Woodward & Laura Linney

The film tells the tragic story of a woman who is a cocaine addict and her mother's incredible battle to save her out of this deadly spot.

12:00 The Hidden Room

A woman recalls a past incident in which she had saved her mother from committing suicide.

Monday, Jan. 30

7:30 Boogies Diner

8:00 Black Beauty

8:30 Street Hawk

An attempt to substitute a detained prisoner, who is charged with a \$20 million robbery, with another, while being transported to the jailhouse.

9:15 Shades Of L.A.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Louisiana

Through the Paris uprising and the civil war, Virginia's world falls apart. She fights to keep and resurrect Bagatelle. But, her struggle has only just begun...

Tuesday, Jan. 31

7:30 Documentary — Practical Guide To The Universe

The programme looks at our planet Earth and tries to trace back the different stages it has gone through since the beginning of creation.

8:00 You Bet Your Life

8:30 Road To Avonlea

Young cannery worker, Gus Pike, struggles to overcome his illiteracy with the help of Hetty King.

9:10 Documentary — Equinox

The programme looks at whether genetic engineers could reconstruct living, breathing dinosaurs that might once more walk on Earth. It follows each scientific step needed to create jurassic park.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Wild Palms

Virtual Reality

Harry could never feel how much he loves his wife until he loses her completely after being strangled by her mother.

12:00 The Piglet Files

Wednesday, Feb. 1

7:30 Ramadan In The World

7:45 Charlie Chaplin

8:00 Law And Order

9:10 The Cinder Path

10:00 News In English

10:40 Snowy River

12:00 Feature Film — Papillon

Starring: Steve McQueen & Dustin Hoffman

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Erin.

2. The Simplon tunnel, 12½ miles long, on the route connecting Switzerland with Italy.

3. A tall, decorated pole around which villagers and children dance on May Day.

4. When both sides are level with three points all.

5. A cairn.

6. The Mount Tamalpais Scenic Railway in California.

PERPLEXITIES

Here is one solution:  
L A J K D M F Q G N P B O H C R E I

# Home & Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 26-27, 1995

## Prime Minister says improving the economy, addressing unemployment, modernising legislation and maintaining security are top priorities

### Government will work to achieve better ties with Arab countries

### Jordanian-Palestinian relations should be based on a clear vision for benefit of two peoples

(Continued from page 6)

and at the same time to highlight the complementary and inseparable relationship between its two components, Arabism and Islam. In this respect, the government will make use of the available potentials to support cultural and art societies, unions and forums to serve their members and empower their roles in deepening the sense of national and pan-Arab belonging.

These potentials will also be used to set up cultural departments in the new governorate centres, open branches of the national library in the Kingdom's cities and to bolster cooperation and contact between our cultural institutions and their counterparts in the Arab World with a view to strengthening the citizen's confidence in his nation and future.

My government is keen on doing its best to implement the letter of appointment's directives regarding culture including guaranteeing freedom of creativity, backing creative people in art and literary areas through offering them job opportunities and appreciating their creativity and assisting them in obtaining all resources of human culture.

If the role of educational and cultural institutions is to create comprehensive awareness and the role of universities is to be centres of research and enlightenment and an image of academic freedom in research and thinking then the role of representation should be one that represents the entire homeland.

In this new climate of change, evaluating and modernising the official media institutions and their performance, is one of this government's priorities. The media will touch upon people's concerns, deepening their practice of democracy. It will also stimulate dialogue among them and provide an atmosphere of constructive criticism and attachment between the people and officials, and support every national effort, and will open wider spaces for citizens to look into what is going on in the world as a means of progress and changing circumstances, with accurate and scientific news credibility.

We are proud that the umbrella of the Jordanian electronic media reflect the image of our country and its national voice to the world. Through the Arab Jordanian space channel and radio, my government will work to have the satellite transmission reach all parts of the world in the near future.

As for the press, the government is keen on securing its freedom which is guaranteed by the constitution, and in the same image drawn and defined by the national charter. The government will coordinate with the Jordanian Press Association (JPA) and cooperate with a group of experts to review all legislation related to journalism. The government hopes that through your honourable House, discussion of the temporary law of the JPA presented to you, will bolster the role of the association in organising the profession and securing the freedom of the press in the context of national and moral responsibility, and in accordance with the terms of integrity, honesty of speech, tolerance, and support for constitutional democracy.

In the field of youth, the government is concerned with investing in their active potentials and aspirations and providing them with all means necessary to continue upgrading them in accordance with the solid bases founded on the faith in God and belonging to the nation with a sense of responsibility to raise a strong youth in terms of faith, morals and personality, aware of the heritage and role of their nation in human civilisation and proud of their history the wise Hashemite leadership.

To achieve this, the government will continue to work on the infrastructure of all youth and sports activities, building youth homes, sport complexes and centres to serve this sector in various parts of the Kingdom. The government will also continue supporting the sport unions and sport clubs financially, to enable them to undertake their role in serving the sport movement and organising local and international sports events to develop and activate sports to reach the standards that our country deserves. The government will work to activate the role of sports and youth leaders centres so as to be a regional Olympic centre, well-prepared to receive and train Arab nationals.

The government will also resume the issuance of the education periodicals and expand the opening of new channels to maintain contacts between our youth inside and outside the country.

The government will attach special attention to the voluntary work and the activation of the role of youth centres in this regard. In addition to that, the government will enhance the role of boys and girls scouts and conduct Al Hussein camps for construction to work in different places and specific seasons.

The approval of the youth law will enable the government to realise these aspirations and provide a fixed income to support these activities, through establishing a fund for supporting youth and sports movements.

The government will work on

encouraging the spread of Islamic culture and will adopt the Islamic Sharī'a and rules as the main source of legislation. The government will also support the role of mosques through providing the preaching and guidance system with efficient qualified imams, upgrading levels of tuition and sermons, intensifying religious lessons to steer citizens to the meaning of good, virtue and moderation. The government will also activate the role of Islamic culture and the King's houses, and attach maximum attention to religious issues through improving the performance of community colleges, institutions and religious schools.

The government will go forward in executing the royal wish to reinforce the tomb of the companions of Prophet Muhammad as it did in continuing to support the committee of renovating Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock, to maintain and reconstruct Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem and the reconstruction of Al Aqsa's pulpit to be a replica of Saladin's pulpit.

The government will make sure to support the tasks of the Islamic waqf, develop its resources and invest its properties, aiming to perform its duties towards society, contributing to achieving development and fighting poverty, and utilising the zakat (alms) to the poor fund to reach this end.

The government will continue performing its duties towards pilgrims and provide them with the best of services.

In the field of administrative reform and development, the government is determined to utilise the human resources, upgrade its efficiency, develop its positive attitudes towards civil service, encourage qualification and vocational training of all service standards, develop the civil service system and develop legislations governing civil service in a manner resulting in the supremacy of the law and observation of the integrity and objectivity in the appointment and promotion procedures.

The government will work on developing the general organisational structure of the state institutions to define relations and contacts among them simplifying the administrative procedures and transparency in departments with direct contact with citizens, developing administrative data systems and introducing the technology of data management in a way that secures the enhancement of efficiency of the various administrations.

The government will further study decentralisation to evolve the role model that would reduce routine procedures, making it easier for citizens to deal with government departments and resulting in the efficient utilisation of development requirements, thus serving the homeland and its citizens.

My government is totally determined to guarantee the integrity and justice of all of its procedures, and will adopt all necessary procedures to guarantee the absolute honesty and justice of the civil servants tasks, remote form bias towards any side and away from malpractice, breach of trust, and administrative corruption.

The government will support the Audit Bureau and the Bureau of Administration Monitoring and Inspection enabling them to perform their tasks of safeguarding public funds, and monitoring administrative performance to its best.

In order to provide an easy access for the citizen to achieve social and administrative services, my government will work on fixing the national number and making it obligatory. The numbers of almost 90 per cent of the citizens have already been registered at the Civil Status Department with regard to the economic field, the government's efforts will concentrate on improving the process of comprehensive development through achieving sustainable economic growth and reviving the economic sectors which suffered lately from some slowdown. The government will also give maximum attention to create the appropriate investment environment to attract local and foreign investment since investment is the corner stone for the attainment of healthy and sustainable growth.

Necessary measures will be taken to stimulate national savings, broaden the productivity base, increase competitive capacity of local exports, maintain ideal utilisation of the available resources, activate the private sector's role in pushing the national economy movement and distribute the proceeds of development in a way that ensures the desired social justice in various parts of the Kingdom.

Therefore, the government is determined to adopt a convenient economic framework which guarantees the establishment of sound economic bases resulting in achieving continued growth, maintaining monetary and financial

stability and surmounting discrepancies and deformities. In conclusion, it is imperative to go forward in implementing the national economic restructuring programme with full strength and determination as it represents the appropriate pillar for growth continuity, preservation of the stability of the Jordanian dinar exchange rate, augmenting the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves and achieving economic stability in the general level of minutes.

The government will work on developing economic legislation, foremost of which are the laws of encouraging investment, companies, free zone corporations, Amman Financial Market, customs brokers and middlemen with a view to enhance investment environment, clarify legal texts, facilitate procedures to reduce red tape and bureaucracy, remove all investment barriers, ease burdens laid on investors, facilitate their work and familiarise them with the available investment opportunities as well as to encourage foreign investment reaching D280 million. The government will also seek to secure needed financing with soft terms to carry out projects of the JD390 million second chapter of the general budget from brotherly and friendly countries and international foundations.

The government will attach major attention to the tourism sector springing from the fact that our country has a distinguished national fortune of antiquities and unique cultural, touristic and religious attractions which the government is keen to safeguard from any misuse and maintain as a witness to our heritage and history, and as part of our national and pan-Arab identity.

The government will work on making tourism a major part of our national economy. It will enhance the role of the higher council of tourism, encourage the private sector to invest in this area, and will provide opportunities and incentives for its initiatives enabling it to compete in regional and international tourism markets.

The government will carry out the infrastructural projects required for the establishment of investment ventures in various touristic locations especially in the areas of Petra, the Dead Sea and the southern shore of Aqaba, thus making these areas suitable for private sector investment. In addition, the Wadi Rum area will receive special attention and care needed to develop it as a potential touristic location. The government will also form the Petra region council to secure and supervise the services in the area in a comprehensive manner.

The government will also endeavour to motivate individual initiatives and encourage the private sector to play its effective national role in the economic development process thus enhancing the complementary relationship between the private and public sectors and to increase the private sector's contribution in economic decision making through consulting its representatives in modernising relevant laws and legislations.

The government will apply the privatisation policy gradually giving priority to private sector-oriented investment in fields of tourism and manufacturing industries while the government will keep its investment in strategic industries. The government will consider converting some of its corporations in preparation for future investment by itself funded by national saving without recoursing to budget financing. These corporations include Jordan Electricity Authority, the Telecommunications Corporation, the Public Transport Corporation and Royal Jordanian Airlines in addition to transforming the petrol department at the Natural Resources Authority into a national oil company.

The government will attach special attention to the importance of encouraging commodity and service exports in order to build a reserve of foreign exchange and professional rehabilitation to seize available employment opportunities in addition to serious efforts in opening more employment opportunities abroad especially for trained cadres. The government will work on organising all that is related to foreign labour correct the status of those currently employed in cooperation with labour unions employers and parties concerned with relevant specialities and activating the residence law in that regard.

The Social Security Corporation will develop its investment policy as a savings corporation through partnerships with the private sector establishing companies and ventures through investment in various fiscal tools such as loan guarantees bonds and real estates and through saving certain percentage of its surpluses in the form of saving deposits ready to meet cash liquidity needs.

The corporation is currently studying modifying the rules of

debts of creditors fully for partially or transforming parts of the debts into grants used to finance investment ventures in Jordan. The government will also seek to reschedule debts on easy terms in the context of executive agreements of the Paris Club.

The government will be committed to laws related to public debts and not to expand local borrowing, in order to enable the private sector to acquire necessary credits from the banks to finance its investment ventures.

The government will accelerate capital expenditure especially in labour intensive projects that can be constructed quickly such as rural and agricultural roads, schools, and government premises, medical centres, hospitals, dams and irrigation, with the aim of reviving economic activities and providing employment opportunities funds allocated for these projects in the budget reaching D280 million. The government will also seek to secure needed financing with soft terms to carry out projects of the JD390 million second chapter of the general budget from brotherly and friendly countries and international foundations.

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the government will work on developing the social security umbrella to provide basic needs and services to citizens through the expansion of health and educational services, the improvement of annual salary raises for civil servants, the adoption of a national housing programme for civil servants and those with low incomes and the support of the civil and military consumer corporations through increasing customs duty exemption granted to them.

The government believes in the just issue of the civic and military pensioners in accordance with His Majesty King Hussein's directives. Therefore, it is currently studying various alternatives to the objective of improving their pensions. A suitable decision will be taken soon, regarding this issue in accordance with what the government pledged before your honourable house.

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Sahab, and the construction of hospitals in the central Jordanian Valley area, Bani Kenanah district, and Wadi Musa. The government will also build educational centres in Ma'an, Irbid, and Salt, in addition to establishing medical equipment maintenance centres, improving primary medical care services through having more health centres and providing the hospitals of the Ministry of Health with full supervision and monitoring remain in government hand.

While my government is presenting your honourable House with this statement, it realises that this new stage of the nation's life, plans and aspirations cannot be isolated from its Arab and Islamic environment, the region's environment and developments and changes the world is witnessing.

Springing from this fact, my government affirms its full keenness on achieving Arab solidarity, seeking to build strong relations with all Arab countries based on mutual trust and respect, aiming to achieve the highest level of coordination and integration in various political, economic, social and cultural fields and to activating the establishment of the common Arab action with the Arab League as its top priority.

The government will also work on developing and modernising the labour market services especially in the fields of food, medical and environmental.

A nursing faculty will be established in the governorate of Karak to fulfil needs of nursing cadres.

In the field of municipal and rural affairs and the environment, my government will work on moving its programmes from experimental stations to the fields in an effort to lead these researchers to meet the requirements of farmers.

The government will also improve the services of agriculture guidance and protection. It will also improve services in the veterinary field through mobile clinics, and the establishment of quality laboratory and medical vet monitoring.

For the purpose of developing agricultural production and land reclamation, the government will produce seven million forestry plants distributed freely to people, in addition to 1.5 million olive plants distributed for farmers at low prices. The government will help in recruiting 125,000 dunums of arable lands planting them with fruit trees and 60,000 dunums with pine trees.

In an effort to solve the negative impact of the problem of poverty and unemployment, it will work hard to reduce their negative impact since the solution needs comprehensive efforts and requires a long team. The national necessities makes it imperative to adopt quick measures to face these challenges. This will be done through supporting small scale productive income generating projects, and encouraging investments. In addition to the necessity of activating the role of the private sector in the process of comprehensive development, and in carrying out labour intensive capital ventures. It will also have various expanded vocational and rehabilitation programmes, and the increase in the number of those benefiting from the programmes during 1995 to exceed 25,000 trainees.

The government will also encourage private participation and activate social aid institutions such as Al Zaka (alms for the poor) Fund, charitable societies and the National Aid Fund whose allocations were raised by 14 per cent this year in order to expand the umbrella of the recipients of its services. In addition JD 50 to 60 per month. The government will activate the Development and Employment Fund and spread its services in all parts of the Kingdom in cooperation with the Agriculture Credit Corporation, Queen Alia Fund and voluntary work institutions.

The government will attach special attention to the importance of institutional development process, enhancing popular participation in formulating agricultural policies.

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# Business & Finance

**Business  
Daily  
Beat**

A review  
of economic news  
from the Arabic press

## Expatriates' remittances climb to JD 850 m

★★ Jordanian expatriates sent home a total of \$1.3 billion (JD 850 million) in 1994, compared to \$1 billion (JD 666 million) in 1993, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi told a group of journalists. He added that Jordanian exports last year went up from JD 691 million in 1993 to approximately JD 950 million in 1994. The governor noted that Jordan last year had the highest volume of exports per capita among all Arab states, except for the oil-producing ones. According to Dr. Nabulsi, Jordan's imports in 1994 totalled \$3.2 billion, or about JD 2 billion, which means there was a \$1.8 billion (JD 1.2 billion) trade deficit (Al Dustour).

★★ Tabineh, or sesame paste, which does not have a government-fixed price is now selling for JD 1.350 a kilogramme instead of one dinar a few days ago. The price of sesame has internationally increased from JD 350 a tonne in late 1994 to JD 700 tonnes last week. With so high a price for sesame, producers of halvah are demanding that the price fixed for their output by the Ministry of Supply be raised. Citing losses from selling at 900 fils a kilogramme, halvah producers say the production cost reaches JD 1.100 a kilogramme. The ministry is reportedly considering floating the price of halvah (Al Dustour).

★★ The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) is restructuring the organisational chart of its personnel to reflect the actual need for staff that would match the volume of work. According to the IDB chief, the number of employees increased from 113 to 163 over the past five years without any actual rise in the volume of work. Noting that salaries went up by 67 per cent over the period, he explained that the administrative and general expenses have climbed to JD 1,824,760. Four employees were terminated at the beginning of the year and another two have resigned (Al Ra'i).

★★ According to a decision by the Ministry of Supply, the price of an Extra Brazilian canned meat is JD 1.135 and the price of a two-kilogramme block of Essen cheese is JD 4.225 (Al Ra'i).

★★ The Cities and Villages Development Bank made a JD 3 million profit last year. In 1994, the bank extended JD 7.6 million in loans to 80 municipal councils and 36 village councils; 47 per cent of the loans were to open and asphalt roads, 10 per cent for productive projects and 24 per cent for rescheduling instalments and interests that were due. The rest of the loans were spent on buying equipment, constructing public buildings and compensating people for appropriations of their land (Al Ra'i).

★★ Construction has started for the National Company for the Aluminium Industries plant at a cost of JD 850,000. The area of the plant will be about 12,000 square metres while the total area of the project is 130,000 square metres. Construction is expected to be finished by July and trial production is expected to begin by September. The company's authorised capital is JD 12 million, but the paid-up capital is only JD 6 million. There are about 3,500 shareholders in the company (Al Ra'i).

## Egyptian state holding company to issue bonds worth \$320 million

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian state's Holding Company for Construction will offer the public tax-exempt bonds worth up to 1.1 billion pounds (\$320 million) between now and June, Public Sector Minister Atef Obeid said at the end of the week. The report "aw the rate of inflation rising to 5.5 per cent in 1995 from 4.5 per cent in 1994 and 3.5 per cent in 1993. It did not specify how it was calculated.

It was not immediately clear if foreign entities would be able to buy the bonds but as the Egyptian government continues to reform the economy it is making less distinction between Egyptians and foreigners.

The upper house of the Egyptian parliament Thursday approved a law enabling the finance ministry to issue separate long-term bonds worth up to 15 billion pounds (\$4.4 billion).

The public-sector companies owned by the holding company would use the money raised to finance new projects, he added.

Al Abram quoted Mr. Obeid as saying public-sector construction companies and contractors owed banks exactly the same amount, 1.1

billion pounds, at the end of the 1993/94 financial year last June but it did not link the debt with the bonds.

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The upper house of the Egyptian parliament Thursday approved a law enabling the finance ministry to issue separate long-term bonds worth up to 15 billion pounds (\$4.4 billion).

The bonds, designed to replace some of the short-term treasury bills issued through the central bank, would have maturities of between five and 15 years, Al Abram said. The Egyptian Stock Exchange would run a secondary market.

The holding company would use the money raised to finance new projects, he added.

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Al Abram quoted Mr. Obeid as saying public-sector construction companies and contractors owed banks exactly the same amount, 1.1

billion pounds, at the end of the 1993/94 financial year last June but it did not link the debt with the bonds.

It was not immediately clear if foreign entities would be able to buy the bonds but as the Egyptian government continues to reform the economy it is making less distinction between Egyptians and foreigners.

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## Australian Open

## Agassi, Sanchez Vicario advance to semifinals

MELBOURNE (AP) — Andre Agassi continued his relentless march through the Australian Open tennis championships, defeating Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov in straight sets Wednesday to advance to the semifinals.

Agassi, the flamboyant No. 2 seed making his debut in the tournament, downed 10th-seeded Kafelnikov 6-2, 7-5, 6-0 in just 83 minutes.

"In hit the ball well, executed well," Agassi said. "It was a good day at the office."

It was Agassi's fifth consecutive victory without dropping a set and gave the United States three men's semifinalists.

Defending champion Pete Sampras will face No. 5 seed Michael Chang in one semi, while Agassi will face Aaron Krickstein of the United States who beat Dutchman Jacco Eltingh 7-6 (7-3), 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Agassi, the U.S. Open champion, said he was delighted with his form.

"I think quite honestly this has been incredible practice for me, more than anything," Agassi said. "To play three sets every other day is not taking a whole lot out of me."

"I feel like it's all gone well for me."

Agassi had requested a daytime match to prepare him for the final two rounds.

"I felt good to be out there in the sun and get a little bit of a tan," he said. "I feel quite comfortable on all my shots right now," he said. "I feel like I'm serving exceptionally well and utilising it."

Agassi had time to feel sorry for Sampras, who was in tears during his dramatic five-set, quarterfinal victory over Jim Courier on Tuesday night and is distressed by the illness of his coach Tim Guilletson.

"It's an extraordinary thing to see what Pete's managed to do," he said. "He's an incredibly gifted person. He's a deep person as well, who is obviously feeling a lot of things and is going through a lot of things at the moment with Tim. I can certainly identify with that. Just to have him still in the tournament is an asset. It's inspiring, you know."

Guliksson suffered strokes twice late last year and had to return home from the Australian Open after feeling unwell and being hospitalised for tests.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario earlier ended the inspired run of Naoko Sawamatsu and moved to within two victories of her first Australian Open women's singles title and the No. 1 ranking.



Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov reacts during his quarterfinal match at the Australian Open (AFP photo)

The top-seed from Spain defeated unseeded Sawamatsu 6-1, 6-3, to advance to a semifinal meeting with another unseeded player — American Marianne Werdel Witmeyer.

The 27-year-old Californian, who had not made it past the third round in 29 previous grand slam tournaments, downed her former hitting partner Angelica Gavaldon 6-1, 6-2 in just 56 minutes in an earlier quarterfinal.

The other women's semifinal will be between No. 2 seed Conchita Martinez of Spain and No. 4 seed Mary Pierce of France, both of whom won their quarterfinals on Tuesday.

Sawamatsu, who is ranked 26th in the world, made the last eight despite the trauma of her family home being destroyed in last week's Kobe earthquake. She had dedicated her victories to victims of the quake and has vowed to donate a percentage of her earnings to them.

"I'm very satisfied with my results," she said. "It was quite hard to concentrate due to the circumstances back home."

The 21-year-old university student was simply overpowered by the stocky Sanchez Vicario in 65 minutes.

The Spaniard won the point 11 of the 15 times she approached the net and hit 22

"I haven't been thinking about the money," she said. "I just treated today like any other match."

Gavaldon, who beat No. 3 Jana Novotna and No. 15 Lori McNeil on her way to the last eight, said she had not been hampered by a head cold that has afflicted her over the past week.

"She played well and I didn't play my best tennis, I can't use the cold as an excuse," she said. "She didn't really give me a chance to do everything you could do."

Gavaldon, whose appearance in the quarterfinals caused great excitement in Mexico, said she had paid the penalty for not hitting the ball deep enough.

"She's been zoning all tournament and I hit the ball too short," she said. "Maybe I could have been a little more aggressive — but it was hard."

The tournament, sponsored by Ford, offers prize money of U.S. \$6.2 million and continues through Sunday.

#### Australian Open notebook

\* French tennis player Mary Pierce has a big fan in American coaching guru Nick Bollettieri — but he says she still has things to prove.

Bollettieri has been in Melbourne watching Pierce's progress into the semifinals of the Australian Open.

"Whoever plays Sanchez Vicario (in the final) will have to hit more balls than ever before in her life — and you can get frustrated. Whether Mary is or not ready for that I don't know."

Bollettieri said last year's French Open final, in which Pierce was beaten by Sanchez Vicario, was an important learning experience, "but that's past tense."

"You can't live on that," said Bollettieri, who is part of Pierce's support group.

"I think Mary has a lot of charisma, she's a beautiful girl, she certainly hits the ball like most men. The question still remains: Is she ready at the age of 20 to take over and win a Grand Slam?"

\* Realistic attitude: Marianne Werdel Witmeyer, a surprise semifinalist at the Australian Open, is a tennis realist.

"In the last couple of years I've gotten a lot better about staying positive and realising that if you're not top 10, that doesn't mean you're a failure," said 47th-ranked Werdel Witmeyer after her 6-1, 6-2, quarterfinal victory over Mexican Angelica Gavaldon.

Five years ago, she considered quitting tennis, but was

talked out of it by her future husband, former Oakland Athletics first baseman Ron Witmeyer.

"He definitely thought that it would be better to stop on a good note, stop when you want to stop, not because you're not doing as well as you think," she said. "Ten years down the road you end up regretting that you quit before you really felt like you did everything you could do."

She and her husband had similar talks about his career. He quit after spending most of his time in the Minors, but was recently asked to go to spring training as a replacement player.

"We've gone through a lot of ups and downs together," she said. "When he was with Oakland and was called up to the Major Leagues, it was the same year my ranking had gone into the 20s. Then the next year, we both kind of struggled. It helps that you both go through things and can help each other out."

\* Caps for success: One of the big corporate successes at the Australian Open has been Global Caps, a company owned by American Peter Bauer and two tennis players who came up with the idea of putting national flags on caps and selling them at sporting events around the world.

Bauer mentioned the idea of golfing partner and former Swedish tennis player Mikael Pernfors, who bought into the company along with former Australian Open champion Mats Wilander.

In their first year at Flinders Park, site of the Australian Open, Global Caps have sold 4,500 of the baseball-type caps at U.S. \$18 each.

The Australian design is the most popular, but hot on its heels are the Swedish, American and German caps. Bauer has 25 flags on caps and is pumping out new countries at the rate of one a week.

He is producing thousands to sell at next year's Atlanta Olympics and while in Australia has approached the Sydney 2000 Olympic Committee for a similar arrangement.

\* All in a name: Australia's multicultural population is very evident in the draw for the junior boys and girls at the Australian Open. Aarthi Venkatesan, Sayed-Akram Zaman, Jan-Ralf Brandt, Lana Scardigno, Wojtek Stasiak and Jong-Min Lee were among the Australians competitors in action Wednesday. One in three Australian was born overseas or has parents that were.

## Delecour, Sainz lead

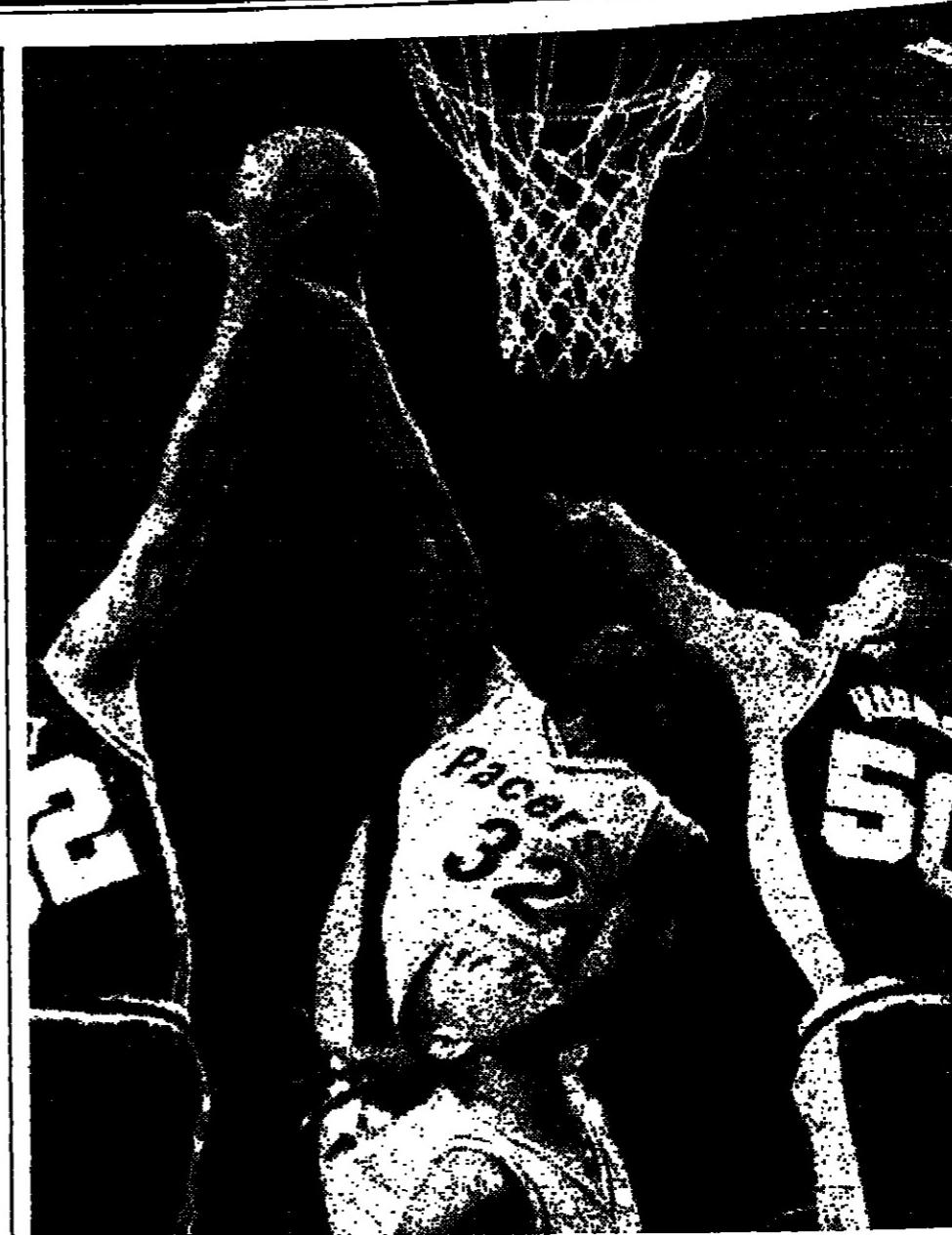
MONTE CARLO (R) — Defending champion Francois Delecour closed the gap on leader Carlos Sainz to 12 seconds on Wednesday to set up an exciting finale to the Monte Carlo Rally.

Frenchman Delecour, who started the third day of the season's opening event 26 seconds behind Spaniard Sainz's Subaru, gained 14 seconds in just three timed

stages from Digne to Monaco.

Ford driver Delecour took every risk on slippery roads in the mountains overlooking the principality to keep alive his chances of a second title.

Sainz, the 1991 winner, and Delecour will rest for a few hours before bartering it out in the remaining six night stages including the famed Turini pass.



Indiana Pacers Dale Davis #32 shoots between David Robinson as Pacer Mark Jackson San Antonio Spurs Sean Elliott (left) and watches (AFP photo)

## NBA ROUNDUP

### Robinson helps propel Spurs past Bulls in overtime

CHICAGO (AP) — Scottie Pippen threw a chair across the United Center court after getting ejected in the first half Tuesday night, and David Robinson and the San Antonio Spurs took advantage of his absence to beat the Chicago Bulls 104-102 in overtime.

Robinson made two free throws with six-tenths of a second left in regulation to send the game into the overtime at 93-93. He scored 9 of the Spurs' 11 points in the extra period, capped by his layup with 1.7 seconds to go.

Toni Kukoc scored 28 points, but Chicago's most impressive athletics feat was Pippen's two-handed, over-head, across-court toss of a chair after referee Joe Crawford ejected him with 2:56 left in the first half. Crawford ejected him with 2:56 left in the first half. Crawford ejected him with 2:56 left in the first half.

In winning its fifth straight and 13 of the last 14, New York overcame a career-high 36 points by Portland's Rod Strickland.

Ewing also had 11 rebounds and John Starks had 26 points.

Heat 107, Pacers 96: In Miami, Glen Rice sparked a key third-quarter surge before leaving the game with an injured right knee and the heat beat Indiana.

Rice scored 15 points, 10 in the third quarter, as the Heat broke away from a tie at 60 and took a 13-point lead.

Donald Royal added 19 points for the Magic, who lead the NBA with a 33-8 record. The Celtics lost their fifth straight game.

Suns 100, Timberwolves 85: In Minneapolis, Dan Ma-

jerle and A.C. Green made 3-point shots during a 12-0 run in the fourth quarter as the Phoenix Suns beat Minnesota, making them 23-0 all-time against the Timberwolves.

The Suns won their fifth in a row overall and extended their road winning streak to seven, one short of the team record. Phoenix has won 10 of 11 while Minnesota has lost 11 of 14.

Knicks 105, Trail Blazers 99: In New York, Patrick Ewing scored 11 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, rallying the Knicks over Portland.

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Reggie Miller had 15 points. Miller, averaging nearly 20 points per game, scored 14 and 15 points in his previous two games.

Pistons 116, 76ers 105: In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Allan Houston scored a career-high 32 points and Terry Mills added 28 as the Pistons again beat Philadelphia.

The Pistons are just 12-25 this season, but four of the wins have come against the 76ers. Since Dec. 6, Detroit is 3-0 against Philadelphia and 1-18 against the rest of the NBA.

Detroit played without Grant Hill and Joe Dumars, both of whom have problems with their left heels.

Supersonics 110, Nuggets 89: In Tacoma, Washington, Shawn Kemp scored 19 points to lead the Supersonics to their 10th straight victory and their 17th home win in a row, 11-89 over Denver.

The Sonics, who haven't lost since Dec. 29, handed the Nuggets their fifth consecutive loss under interim coach Gene Little, who replaced Dan Issel after Issel's surprise resignation Jan. 15.

Seattle ended a four-game losing streak against the Nuggets, who upset them as a No. 8 seed in the first round of the playoffs last May. Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf led Denver with 27 points.

Rockets 115, Bucks 99: In Milwaukee, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 20 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter as the Houston Rockets snapped the Bucks' four-game winning streak.

Olajuwon even joined in Houston's 3-point barrage, hitting from the left wing with 22 seconds left for Houston's 14th 3-pointer of the night and Olajuwon's first of the season. He scored 20 of the Rockets' final 29 points.

Vernon Maxwell added 25 points, 21 after halftime, and Otis Thorpe had 15 points for Houston.

Nets 106, Warriors 93: In Oakland, California, Armon Gilliam had 26 points and matched his season high with 13 rebounds as the New Jersey Nets broke a three-game losing streak with a 106-93 win over the Warriors.

Derrick Coleman added 18 points, 21 after halftime, and Otis Thorpe had 15 points for Houston.

Kings 116, Mavericks 109, 2OT: In Sacramento, California, Walt Williams connected on an off-balance shot from close range with 5.3 seconds remaining in the second overtime, giving the Kings a 110-109 victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

The Kings are 12-25 this season, but four of the wins have come against the 76ers. Since Dec. 6, Detroit is 3-0 against Philadelphia and 1-18 against the rest of the NBA.

Detroit played without Grant Hill and Joe Dumars, both of whom have problems with their left heels.

## RESULTS

Detroit	116	Philadelphia	105
Miami	107	Indiana	96
New York	105	Portland	99
Orlando	110	Boston	97
San Antonio	104	Chicago	102 (OT)
Phoenix	100	Minnesota	85
Houston	115	Milwaukee	99
Seattle	111	Denver	89
New Jersey	106	Golden State	93
Sacramento	110	Dallas	105 (2 OT)

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## Jordan Soccer League

### Wihsat await Friday's match to celebrate title win

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is the final week of the First Division Soccer Championship, which kicks off Thursday, that will have the final say as to the team that gets to win the Kingdom's most prestigious soccer title.

The 132-match, 44-week long championship will be over Friday when Al Wihsat face Al Arabi at Amman Stadium. A win or draw will automatically secure the crown for Al Wihsat. Their first round match had ended 3-1 for Al Wihsat.

Only in case of Al Arabi's win and Al Ramtha's victory over Shabab Al Hussein will the competition be prolonged for a decisive match between Al Wihsat and Al Ramtha, an unlikely prospect, but one that should be taken into account in the unpredictable world of sports.

In Irbid, Al Faisali will clash with Al Hussein hoping that Al Ramtha loses their match so that they can clinch the runner up spot. Al Faisali won the title in 1992 and 1993.

At the other end of the standings, the last three teams have already been relegated, while the fourth will be either Al Arabi, Kufraoum or Al Qadissieh.

Al Arabi seem nearer to that fate. They have a difficult match with the only unbeaten team, Al Wihsat. But even winning the match would not be of great help if Al Qadissieh and Kufraoum win their match.

Al Qadissieh, who moved up from 7th to 9th three consecutive wins over Al Ramtha, Shabab Al Hussein and Al Karmel, next have an easy match against Al Jeel.

Meanwhile, Kufraoum, the only newcomer this sea-

son to maintain a standing outside the last four throughout the competition, next play 11th placed Al Karmel.

Al Jazireh, a team often threatened with relegation, have finished fifth and will next play Al Arabi who secured their place in the division after their latest vital 3-1 win over Al Arabi.

Al Faisali and Al Husseini, two teams that lost the chance to compete for the title, now eye another token prize — the league's top scorer award.

Al Faisali's Jiryes Tadros and Al Husseini's Aref Hussein are now tied in first place with 16 goals each. Tadros netted two goals from penalty kicks against Kufraoum, while Hussein scored a hat-trick against Al Jazireh, leaving last week's top scorer Al Ramtha's Mouafaq Abu Hdeib second with 14 goals.

Kufraoum's Yousef Obeidat who led the scorers in the first round is now third, tied with 13 goals with Al Arabi's Nuri Yadaji.

Al Arabi's Ayman Al Omari is fourth with 12 goals. Al Wihsat's Jihad Abdul Mun'um is a distant fifth with 9 goals.

Al Husseini are the top scoring team of the com-

petition with 52 goals in 21 matches they have the highest scoring average of 2.4 per match.

Al Jazireh, who secured at least one of the season's titles when they won the Federation Shield, also have the best result record with 14 wins, two draws and five losses.

Although leaders Al Wihsat maintained an unbeaten record so far, their scoring is low at 27 goals and an average of 1.2 per match.

Al Jeel have the worst scoring record. They only scored one win and have only netted 11 goals while allowing 58 to enter their net.

**Schedule of final week:**

Thursday 26/1  
Jel/Qadissieh 2:30 p.m.  
Petra Stadium  
Kufraoum/Karmel 2:30 p.m.  
Hasan Stadium

Jazireh/Ahli 2:30 p.m.  
Amman Stadium

Friday 27/1  
Wihsat/Arabi 2:30 p.m.  
Amman Stadium

Shabab Al Hussein/Ramtha 2:30  
Petra Stadium  
Hussein/Faisali 2:30 p.m. Hasan Stadium

#### Standings after 21st week

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Wihsat	21	13	3	27	5	34	
Ramtha	21	13	6	2	42	13	32
Faisali	21	12	7	2	41	9	31
Husseini	21	14	2	5	52	24	30
Jazireh	21	10	5	6	30	22	25
Ahli	21	8	6	7	29	28	22
Odissieh	21	7	6	8	26	25	20
Kufraoum	21	9	2	10	28	34	19
Arabi	21	7	5	9	26	33	19
Shabab Al Hussein	21	2	4	15	20	45	8
Karmel	21	2	4	15	14	50	8
Jeel	21	1	1	19	11	58	3

## Evert named to Tennis Hall of Fame

NEXTPORT, Rhode Island (AP) — Chris Evert, whose 157 career tennis titles include 18 Grand Slams, will be the only player inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame this year, officials said Tuesday.

Evert will be enshrined on July 16, becoming the 163rd player to be so honored.

Evert, who cemented her arrival on the international scene when she was 15 with a victory over then world number one Margaret Court at a tournament in North Carolina, held the number one ranking eight times during her career.

He metronomic ground-strokes and controlled demeanor on court earned her the nickname "Ice Maiden."

At the same time, her ponytail and shy smile gave her an image as one of America's sporting sweethearts.

Evert said her baseline game, now the standard for young women players — was a novelty she introduced.

"No one could hit three straight groundstrokes without hitting one into the net or out of the court."

Evert's game was perfectly suited to clay, and her 125-match winning streak on clay is the best record of any player for any single surface.

Her career was also marked by a long rivalry with Czech-born American Martina Navratilova. Her 157 career titles is second only to Navratilova's career total of 167.

Evert will become the 163rd player enshrined in the Hall of Fame and the 44th woman. She is the sixth person to be elected unanimously since 1980.

England's Virginia Wade, another Hall of Fame player, summed up Evert's career by saying, "She came in a winner and stayed that way."

## Brundle confirmed at Ligier

LONDON (R) — The French Ligier Formula One motor racing team confirmed Wednesday that Briton Martin Brundle and Japanese driver Aguri Suzuki will partner Frenchman Olivier Panis this season.

The deal with Brundle indicates that former world champion Nigel Mansell will now almost certainly race for the Marboro McLaren Mercedes Team.

Brundle, who was fighting with Mansell for the second seat alongside Mika Hakkinen, had hoped to stay with McLaren for a second year but grew impatient of waiting for the outcome of negotiations.

The news also means that John Herbert looks set for a drive alongside world champion Michael Schumacher at the Benetton Renault Team.

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# Jordan, Israel review draft bilateral accords

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Israel have drawn up a draft agreement on trade after several weeks of negotiations and the draft is expected to be presented to the two governments soon for ratifications after a few more modifications, officials said Wednesday.

Work on the accord was speeded up after a visit Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin paid to Amman on Jan. 12 and agreed with His Majesty King Hussein to accelerate the implementation of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Jordanian-Israeli committee charged with implementing the treaty met Wednesday in the Israeli port city of Eilat "to review the outcome of negotiations conducted by specialised joint committees last week and to set an agenda for the committee's next meeting."

The committee in charge of implementing the treaty is co-chaired by Hani Al Mulqi, president of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), and Eliakim Rubinstein, who also led the Israeli team to the bilateral negotiations with Jordan.

Peri quoted an official spokesman as saying that the committee discussed the "main articles in the draft agreements being negotiated under the terms of the peace treaty" and that Jordan "reasserted the need to have the draft accord cover all sectoral questions in a comprehensive and clearly defined manner."

The committee will meet again at Deir Allah, on the Jordanian side of the Jordan Valley, on Wednesday.

The Jordanian team to the meeting included Major General Taha Shurdan, assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Khalil Kreisat, secretary-general of the Ministry of Interior, Mohammad Smadi, secretary-general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and Basam Awadallah, an advisor at the Prime Ministry.

The peace treaty calls for a trade agreement to be finalised in six months after the ratification of the treaty itself; thus the deadline is May 10 (after the treaty was ratified on Nov. 10). But Mr. Rabin said on Jan. 12 that both sides wanted to accelerate the process and Israel would allow Jordanian exports to the Jewish state earlier than that date.

Israeli officials said early this week that both sides were working to conclude the trade accord on Jan. 25, but that it was unlikely to be completed by this date.

According to a report in the Jerusalem Post, Jordan and Israel have agreed to remove all important restrictions "under the principle of

non-discrimination" and to grant each other preferential treatment in terms of lower customs duties for a limited list of imports.

Israel has also agreed to give Jordanian products more benefit of preferential treatment with lower duties, it said.

Zohar Peri, a senior official of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Trade, was quoted as saying by the Post that he expected the negotiations on rules of origin on Jordanian products to be "complicated."

"Israel is demanding that 40 per cent of the value of goods imported from Jordan derive from local work and products," said the Post.

"Without such requirements, non-Jordanian products could come into (Israel) under the preferential terms that are only intended for the Kingdom."

With a view to encouraging industrial cooperation between the two countries and to help Jordan meet the minimum "local-content" requirements, Israel proposes to recognise Israeli components of Jordanian products as of Jordanian origin, according to the newspaper.

Israel is seeking Jordanian preferential treatment to consumer products, including food, refrigerators and air-conditioners, and is also requesting to include equipment and industrial goods such as stone-cutting machinery, printed circuits and telecommunications equipment in the preferential list of imports.

According to Mr. Peri, Israel is also seeking identical treatment for goods that both sides produce such as phosphate and cement.

Meanwhile, the Post reported on Wednesday that aviation talks between Jordan and Israel were deadlocked over the altitude that Jordanian planes should fly at while using Israeli airspace. The Post quoted Eli Danon, a spokesman of the Israeli Transport Ministry, as saying that other issues involved in the negotiations on an agreement on transport between Jordan and Israel were going well and were expected to be completed on Wednesday. The brother of another MP is also under arrest on narcotics dealing charges.

According to Mr. Danon, Jordan is insisting that planes using Israeli airspace to fly to Jordan be permitted to fly at a height of 11,000 feet while Israel was objecting to this saying it would interfere with air force training flights. Israel wants a higher altitude.

"As a result of the disagreement, Israel said it was willing to defer aviation talks and a subsequent aviation agreement," said the Post. Jordan is reportedly willing to keep this particular issue in abeyance while continuing talks on the joint use by Israel and Jordan of the Aqaba airfield.

## Arafat in Amman

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker greets Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat upon the latter's arrival in Amman on Wednesday. His Majesty King Hussein met with Mr. Arafat later in the day (see page one) (AFP photo)



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Police break up protest for freedom in Aden

ADEN (AFP) — Yemeni police broke up a protest for press freedom in the southern port city of Aden on Wednesday, making a number of arrests, witnesses said. Journalists and opposition activists gathered in the city centre, holding banners calling for press freedom and respect for democracy, before police used "violence" against them, the witnesses told AFP. The demonstration was called by a collective set up after the Jan. 4 suspension of the independent daily Al Ayyam, published in Aden, which is close to the liberal opposition. The demonstrators drew up a petition to President Ali Abdullah Saleh demanding the release of those arrested, press freedom and lifting of the suspension of Al Ayyam, said Abdul Aziz Al Saqqaf, chief editor of the English-language weekly Yemen Times and head of the collective. The petition said Al Ayyam was suspended after it revealed "human rights violations, especially in southern Yemen, since the (civil) war ended."

### Detailed Lebanon MP suffers heart attack

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Member of Parliament (MP) Yahya Shamas, under arrest on drugs dealing charges, was taken to hospital after suffering a heart attack, judicial sources said on Wednesday. They said Mr. Shamas, who was stripped of his parliamentary immunity and arrested on Nov. 30, was taken on Tuesday night from his cell at Roumeh jail east of Beirut to a private hospital. He is in his late 40s or early 50s. Mr. Shamas, a Shiite Muslim from the eastern Bekaa Valley which was a centre of the multimillion-dollar narcotics industry during the 1975-90 civil war, has denied involvement in drug dealing. He touched off a scandal by telling parliament that President Elias Hrawi's son, unnamed deputies, and unnamed minister, a well-known businessman and 10 airline pilots were linked to the drug trade. Lebanon's prosecutor-general, Munif Oueidat, said there was no truth to Mr. Shamas' allegations. Lebanese authorities have begun a campaign against cultivation, processing and trafficking of narcotics over the past two years. The brother of another MP is also under arrest on narcotics dealing charges.

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### Six dead, seven missing in Egyptian rubble

CAIRO (AP) — Rescuers recovered the bodies of six labourers on Wednesday from the rubble of a university building that collapsed in southern Egypt. Seven others were still missing, police said, and six were hospitalised with injuries. The workers had been trying to repair the structure of the building, which is part of the medical school at El-Minya University, when it collapsed Tuesday night, police said. The cause was not immediately known. But students were ordered to vacate the building months ago after university officials determined that it was dangerous. The university is in the town of Al Minya, 220 kilometres south of Cairo.

### Norway may permanently recall Iran envoy

OSLO (AP) — The Norwegian foreign ministry may recall its ambassador to Iran permanently and replace him with a chargé d'affaires in connection with the Salman Rushdie affair, the Norwegian daily Arbeiderbladet reported Wednesday. Mr. Gavahi had hinted in a letter to the Norwegian foreign ministry that his government could change its policy on an Iranian death threat against British author Salman Rushdie and all those involved in the publication of "The Satanic Verses." The late founder of the Islamic republic Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini condemned Mr. Rushdie to death in 1989 in a "fatwa" or religious edict, saying his novel had insulted Islam. Mr. Gavahi also said that the fatwa would not affect Norwegians living in Norway, but the Iranian authorities recently withdrew the letter and asked its ambassador, viewed as a moderate, to leave Norway.

### Sudan to take border dispute to World Court

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan says it will take its border dispute with Egypt to the World Court if bilateral negotiations fail to resolve it. Omar Youssif Berido, undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, told reporters Tuesday night that the dispute over the area known as Halabib could be resolved with Egypt "if political willpower prevailed." Otherwise, he warned, Sudan will appeal to the World Court in the Hague. Egypt opposes any action that would broaden the dispute beyond bilateral negotiations.

Relations between the Egyptian government and Sudan have been rocky since Sudanese leader Omar Al Bashir came to power five years ago and installed an Islamic regime. They worsened during the 1990-91 Gulf conflict, when Sudan supported Iraq out of Kuwait. Egypt also has accused Sudan of supporting Islamic militants who have waged a three-year campaign of violence against Egypt's secular government.

## Amnesty denounces French role over Sudan

NAIROBI (AFP) — Watchdog organisation Amnesty International on Wednesday accused France of deliberately playing down serious human rights violations in Sudan because of its own political interests.

Presenting a damning report on major abuses in Sudan, Amnesty representative Andrew Mawson said France provided the "clearest example of those breaking international norms" on condemning human rights violations in the country.

Mr. Mawson, who led the investigation behind the report, said that Amnesty nevertheless had no independent confirmation of charges that France has helped the military junta in Khartoum to fight rebels in southern Sudan in exchange for the extradition of "Carlos."

Carlos, whose real name is Illich Ramírez Sanchez, was arrested in Sudan last August and handed over to France for trial.

The rapporteur mentioned no other countries by name, but said France was among those which had sought to improve relations with Khartoum, where General Omar Al Bashir's junta, backed by Islamic fundamentalists, seized power in a June 1989

quake. The Amnesty report said "some governments have begun to play down the seriousness of the human rights situation in pursuit of their own political interests."

In the 132-page document, whose publication marks the start of a campaign to improve conditions in Sudan, Amnesty said human rights abuses are being committed on a massive scale in Sudan both by the government and by the rebels.

The London-based organisation called on the United Nations set up an "international civilian human rights monitoring team" to tackle abuses in the country.

Since coming to power, the Sudanese government has made torture and the detention of suspected opponents in so-called "ghost-houses" — the security forces' secret detention centres — standard practice throughout the country as it crushes political opposition and attempts to mould society to its own version of a radical Islamic agenda," Amnesty's report said.

Since 1983, when civil war reigned in the south after a lull of several years, more than one million people have died in the conflict between the Arab and Muslim north,

## Japanese crown prince, princess begin three-day visit to Jordan today

in each other's capital in 1974.

Japanese Ambassador Yuji Ikeda described the visit as a reaffirmation of the strong ties binding the royal families of Japan and Jordan and the people of the two countries.

Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako will arrive from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the third leg of a visit which began in Kuwait. It is the second tour of the Middle East by the crown prince and princess.

"It is highly expected that the coming visit of Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako will enhance further the existing close and friendly relations" between Jordan and Japan, he said.

Jordanian and Japanese officials have described the visit to Jordan by Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako as a reflection of the excellent state of relations between the Kingdom and Japan.

During their visit, which comes in response to an invitation by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, the Japanese royal couple will tour sites of archaeological and tourist interest.

Emperor Akihito, who was then crown prince of Japan, visited Jordan in 1976.

Jordan and Japan maintain traditionally strong relations and the King and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan have visited Japan several times.

Japan and Jordan established diplomatic relations in 1964 and opened embassies in 1966.

to the royal tombs and the Martyrs Monument Friday morning, a visit to Petra and Aqaba overnight Friday, return to Amman after lunch at the Jordan Valley on Saturday, a banquet hosted by the King and Queen in Amman Saturday night, meetings with the Japanese community in Amman and members of the Japan-Jordan association and a visit to a workshop of the Young Women's Muslim Association.

Princess Masako will also visit the Jordan Red Crescent Society.

The Japanese Crown Prince and Princess leave Amman Sunday evening.

In Dubai on Wednesday, Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako will meet Dubai's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammad Ben Rashid Al Maktoum, who expressed condolences over last week's earthquake in Japan, the Emirates News Agency said.

It said the royal couple exchanged gifts with Sheikh Mohammad, also the UAE defence minister, and both sides expressed hope for stronger ties.

The UAE supplies Japan with most of its crude oil needs.

The royal couple on Tuesday watched a camel race and traditional dancing in the UAE.

## Kobe gets some relief amid aftershocks and political fallout

KOBE (Agencies) — The first hot bath since last week's earthquake brought some relief Wednesday to thousands packed into emergency shelters as officials appealed for medicine to combat an outbreak of influenza among the homeless.

A strong aftershock from the Jan. 17 quake, which killed more than 5,000 people, rocked this city late Wednesday. There were no reports of damage or casualties.

Officials said "Bullet" trains between Kyoto and Osaka stations were halted and police closed several expressways in the area as a precaution.

Eight days after the magnitude 7.2 quake, about one-fifth of Kobe's population — 307,000 people — remain in tents and makeshift shelters set up in schools and government buildings.

In an effort to ease the misery, Japanese troops erected several temporary public baths around the city, giving thousands of people their first opportunity to bathe since the quake.

As of Wednesday, the death toll from the quake stood at 5,074 with 61 missing and 26,618 injured. Nearly 75,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed.

Authorities condemned 1,268 quake-damaged buildings and began demolishing some of them with the help of

Japanese troops.

Shock waves from the earthquake have spread to all parts of Japanese society raising questions about the future of the nation's ruling structure and the survival of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's government.

One week after the disaster, Mr. Murayama, Japan's military, powerful bureaucrats, business practices and the very laws of the nation have come under a relentless microscope.

The judgements have been

overwhelmingly that something went wrong in handling the country's worst natural disaster for nearly half a century.

## Russia tightens Grozny siege

GROZNY (Agencies) — Russian forces pounded the Chechen capital Grozny with artillery shells and tank fire on Wednesday and independence fighters said they expected a major Russian ground assault to clear the city.

Russian troops attacked Chechen positions, particularly in the city's southern suburbs, with artillery, missiles and machine gunfire in a barrage that ended five days of relative calm.

"There is serious shelling and tank fire now. We are expecting a big Russian attack soon with tanks and troops to clear us out," said a 34-year-old Chechen fighter Revan Alibeyev returning from fighting in the Minutka district of the city.

"Each one of us can take out at least one tank. Even if we have to throw ourselves under the tracks. Now we are in a holy war," he declared.

In Moscow, Russia's powerful security council, meeting under the chairmanship of President Boris Yeltsin, approved a move to

switch control of the Chechen campaign from the regular army to Interior Ministry.

But given the scale of fighting the formal move appeared unlikely to change the reality on the ground, with the army remaining the dominant Russian force.

The switch of emphasis would support Mr. Yeltsin's comments that military operations in Chechnya were effectively over and might help smooth relations with Western governments which have been upset by the heavy-handed use of the army in Chechnya.

The army has been attacked at home and abroad for its indiscriminate bombing and shelling since it moved into Chechnya on December 11 to crush the mainly-Muslim republic's three-year secession from Russia.

The Interior Ministry forces have been charged with mopping up the remaining Chechen resistance in towns and villages, and with re-establishing the economy

from Russia.

Earlier this week, Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev vowed that his rebels would continue fighting Russia until a ceasefire accord was reached and international observers were deployed in Chechnya.

## COLUMN 8

### Major wants to ease Sunday drinking rules

LONDON (AFP) — British Prime Minister John Major said Tuesday he would like to do away with "old fashioned" rules limiting the sale of alcohol on Sundays. Major said he was in favour of letting public houses stay open all day on Sunday instead of forcing them to shut between 03:00 p.m. and 07:00 p.m. as they now have to do. He also said shops should be allowed to sell liquor all day from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. "The present law on sales of liquor on Sunday is absurd. Why can people buy liquor in a shop at noon but not at 11:30 a.m. or in a pub at 03:00 p.m. but not 04:00 p.m.?" he asked.

### Ireland on top in making babies, Sweden surging

PARIS (AFP) — Ireland is still on top in the European baby-making stakes, although the Swedes have put on a spurt and are leading them next year, according to a report published here Tuesday. The average Irish couple produces just over two children, maintaining the island's position as most fertile in Europe, while countries like Denmark, Luxembourg, and Britain come in between 1.7-1.8 babies per couple. At the bottom end of the fecundity range, Italian, German and Spanish parents produce only an average of 1.3 children. France is sandwiched between them on 1.65. The real stars are the Swedes, however, who have surged from 1.6 a decade ago to within a hair's breadth of Ireland's two and a bit. They beat them once off in 1992 and could yet top the chart next year.

### Dinner with Newt, at \$50,000 a plate

WASHINGTON (R) — House of Representatives speaker Newt Gingrich Tuesday defended a \$50,000-a-plate fund-raising dinner that he will attend to raise money for a conservative cable television network. The Republican leaders